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This week's poll:

Do you plan to have turkey this Thanksgiving?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

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FEDS TO PROBE PLANE CRASH

Star Marianas takes full responsibility

Passengers disembark from a Star Marianas aircraft after it landed at the Tinian airport on Friday night. A similar Star Marianas aircraft crashed at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport at past 6am yesterday, resulting in one death and injuries to six others. The cause of the fatal crash remains under investigation.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Federal authorities will investigate the fatal plane crash at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport early yesterday morning and, until the process is completed, the cause of the accident will not be known.

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DESPITE FATAL PLANE CRASH

'CNMI still a safe destination'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» Impact on local travel, tourism expected

Despite yesterday morning's plane crash that killed a Chinese tourist and injured six others, including the pilot, government officials and residents said the CNMI remains a safe place for travel, considering that the small plane involved had over 4,000 takeoffs and landings a month and this was the airline company's first fatal accident.

Still, others believe the crash will have an impact on inter-island travel and tourism in general but they're hoping the impact will be short-lived.

"With the sheer number of flights Star Marianas has—over 100 flights a day or over 4,000 a month—and they have this one accident, their flights are still safe. It's sad that this had to happen but it's a fact of life that accidents do happen. We're very saddened by this. We hope if there's going to be an impact on travel and tourism, that they would only be short term," Tinian

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FHB: Positive signs for NMI; uncertainty remains

"After several years of a slow economy and tough business environment, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands is beginning to see positive developments," a new First Hawaiian Bank economic analysis of the CNMI and Guam has found.

"Some in the business community are of the opinion that the economy might have bottomed out. However, uncertainty remains, especially with regard to the effects of the federalization law on the CNMI," states the report, prepared for the bank by Dr. Maria Claret M. Ruane, resident development economist at the University of Guam-Pacific Center for Economic Initiatives.

First Hawaiian Bank

Economic growth, at last

The CNMI economy (Gross Island Product) had been declining nearly every year since 2003, but the U.S. Department of Commerce recently reported growth of 2.3 percent in 2010. "This is cause for optimism and possibly marks a turnaround,"

See FHB on Page 4

Local

Shortage of rice, other basic goods on Rota

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Most store shelves on Rota have either ran out of rice and other basic commodities or have critically low supplies because the barge that's been supplying containers of consumer goods could not enter the port to discharge cargo because of rough waters, businesses and officials told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The last shipment of goods to Rota was on Oct. 19.

Some Rota stores that are bringing in goods via air freight are forced to charge a lot more than the regular price for rice because of added transportation costs.

Liza Camacho, cashier at Lucky Store in Songsong, said they no longer have rice on their store shelves and had to order supplies from Saipan and bring them to Rota by plane, therefore rice is now more expensive than usual.

A 5-lb bag of rice, for example, has a normal price of $3.95. But because it had to be brought to Rota by plane, the cost went up to $6.95 per 5 lbs, she said.

Lucky Store also ran out of or has very low supply of sugar, salt, soy sauce, and butane gas, among other products, Camacho added. She said their store in Sinapalo also has the same supply problems.

Harvest Market in Songsong, as well as its two sister stores, 3 Kings I and 3 Kings Too, in Sinapalo, now also has a critically low supply of rice and ran out of butane gas.

An accountant at Harvest Market separately said yesterday that they have been expecting new shipments every two weeks but this has not happened since the last shipment of Oct. 19.

The accountant, who requested that her name not be published, said the ship/barge owner earlier told them that the barge would come in on Nov. 9 or 10, but this didn't happen "because of rough seas."

"They rescheduled the shipment to Nov. 23 or this weekend. That would be after Thanksgiving," she said in a phone interview.

Like other stores, Harvest is being forced to bring goods from Saipan to Rota through Star Marianas.

Fatima Flores, cashier at Sinapalo Safeway, also said yesterday that their store no longer has rice to sell to store customers.

Sunshine Variety Shop is also in the same situation.

"It's because of inadequate shipping and transportation. Whenever water is rough the barge can't enter the port," a 37-year-old employee at Sunshine Variety said. "It's not just rice but other commodities too. There's no rice, and we're low on butane gas supply."

Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola said this is an unfortunate thing to happen again on Rota wherein supplies are in shortage because the vessel that is providing cargo service to the island could not enter the ports.

The last time Rota had shortage of food and other consumer goods because of shipping issues was in early 2010. That was because the vessel couldn't enter the port since the last shipment on Dec. 21, 2009.

Rota does not have a breakwater to allow ships to enter the port during rough weather conditions.

CLASS GET-TOGETHER
The Marianas High School Class of '93's reunion picnic drew 14 members. Part of the fun was catching up and listening to how the miles went by from then until now. In picture are Jessica Rasiang, Reeda Tarope, Matilde Bermudes, Del Magofna, Ernest Sablan, Linda Taisacan, Maryann Borja-Arriola, Glenn Arriola, Vivian Sablan, Jack Torres, Irene Tudela, Melvin Tenorio, Jason Camacho, and Jackie Sokau Sablan.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Zoning law changes friendly to home-based businesses

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The proposed amendments to the Saipan Zoning Law will make it easier for home-based businesses to start their operations, according to Zoning legal counsel Kate Fuller.

At the board meeting Thursday, Fuller said the Commonwealth Zoning Board and the Zoning Office made a lot of improvements in the zoning law to make it suitable and fit for the islands. She said these improvements take into consideration home-based businesses.

"The bill we have in front of the Legislature includes a lot of changes," Fuller told the board, adding that these changes are "improvements that make life easier for everybody."

Fuller cited her own experience applying for a permit to start her jewelry-making business at home, which took about six months before it was approved.

During the process of securing the permit, she said she was asked for details and information that were not needed in the permit application, including the size of the lot where her house is located.

"This kind of information is just too much," added Fuller.

Board vice chair Herman P. Sablan expressed his support for the home-based business concept, pointing out that many businesses cannot afford to rent commercial space due to the bad economy that they now opt to use personal resources by operating "low intensity" type of business from home.

"It would help our local people start their own business," added Sablan.

Board member Bruce Bateman described the questions asked of home-based business applicants as "either outlandish or intrusive" and recommended that the office develop a system that would streamline the existing one.

Zoning administrator Therese T. Ogumoro said that streamlining the permitting process is already being done, adding that they have not received complaints since they began doing it.

Board chair Diego C. Blanco praised Ogumoro and the Zoning Office's efforts to become more efficient and productive but pointed out the need to pass the zoning law amendments without delay.

Blanco also welcomed the board's newest member, Natalie Mable E. Ayuyu, who attended her first meeting Thursday.

"We look forward to working with you. We're very happy to have a young talent on board," added Blanco.

A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

Mission: Rota Blue Triathlon

The **19th Annual Rota Blue Triathlon** was held in Rota on Nov. 17, 2012, with the local community out in full force to support the athletes.
Almost four hours after the event started and far down the lonely back roads of the running course, the **Marianas Visitors Authority** caught up with members of the **JROTC Chamorro Buck Batallion** of **Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Senior High School** who had been up since before sunrise to man a water station and help out at the finish line.

L-R Clevin Taisacan, Jaomie Manglona, Tanya King, Maise Mesgnon, Angelique Perez, Neri Jingco, Taylor Hocog, Reann Camacho, Maricel Atalig

Why are you guys out here today?
"We're helping with the triathlon because volunteering and helping the community is part of what we learn in JROTC and is part of our core values. Our mission is to be better citizens and by helping, we are accomplishing our mission." –Taylor Hocog

How exactly are you helping?
"Part of the JROTC is that we help with community support, so the coordinators invited us to help the athletes by giving motivation and serving them water. We were (also) cheering for them after the swim." –Maricel Atalig

How's it going to far?
"So far it's a lot of fun. There are a lot of participants. It motivates us to live a healthy lifestyle. It's not about being first place, but it's about finishing your goal." - Neri Jingco

What you think makes Rota unique as a visitor destination?
"In my opinion, Rota is the best tourist site because of all the sites we have, such as the Bird Sanctuary, Taga Stone Quarry, the Japanese canon, and most importantly, the wonderful, gregarious, friendly people!" - Maisie Mesngon

L-R Konica Atalig, Kelina Hocog, Kayla Mesngon, Jason Masga, Rosemina Poll, Beda Mundo, and Cleo Cuizon at the finish line of the Rota Blue Triathlon on Nov. 17, 2012.

Any inspiration words for other young people in the Marianas?
"If visitors were to come here, we should be nice to the. Basically, our Chamorro culture deals a lot with respect, and family is most important, so we should treat them like family." - Jaomie Manglona

The annual Rota Blue Triathlon is one of four major triathlon events held in the Northern Mariana Islands, including the **XTERRA Saipan Championship**, Tagaman Triathlon and the Tinian **Turquoise Blue** events. The MVA next big race will be the **6th Annual Marianas Coffee Trail Run** on Jan. 26, 2013.

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

DHHS agrees to deploy lab director, manager for CHC

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. for now can heave a sigh of relief after the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services agreed to deploy a laboratory director and a laboratory manager for the Commonwealth Health Center to address concerns of the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Corporation CEO Juan N. Babauta confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* that he had a teleconference with health officials in Washington, D.C. Friday morning on the two immediate jeopardy statuses that the corporation must fix by yesterday, Nov.19. Corporation COO Esther Muña and hospital director Karen Buettner participated in the hourlong teleconference.

It was disclosed that the salary for the two positions will most likely be sourced from a technical grant from the Office of Insular Affairs, as earlier promised by Assistant Interior Secretary Tony Babauta.

Babauta could not immediately say when the two individuals will arrive on the island, saying that HHS will finalize such details.

Once identified, the lab director and lab manager may serve the public hospital from six months to two years, during which the corporation will continue to announce the need for a permanent lab manager and lab director for CHC, Babauta said.

CMS gave the corporation only up to Nov. 19 to fully address the two remaining immediate jeopardy statuses, and set a Dec. 3 deadline for other deficiencies and citations uncovered by a visiting team.

Because the corporation has secured the commitment of both HHS and OIA on the deployment of a lab director and manager, Babauta believes that this will be considered by Medicare in its decision whether to lift the sanctions or not.

"As long as we have the commitment and documents to that commitment, I am sure CMS will consider [lifting the immediate jeopardy statuses]," Babauta told *Saipan Tribune.*

According to him, HHS will deploy two professionals through the National Health Service Corps. This organization, through scholarships and loan repayment programs, helps states and territories with desperately needed health care personnel in areas where providers are in short supply.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has allowed the NHSC to more than double the number of primary care doctors, dentists, and other clinicians working in underserved communities nationwide.

Other options still on table

Despite the assured deployment from HHS, other options on how the corporation can find a long-term director and manager for the laboratory are still on the table, Babauta said. These include collaboration with the Guam Memorial Hospital where the two facilities have expressed willingness to share personnel and expertise.

He admitted, though, that there are factors that are beyond the control of the corporation. "We have to wait for their answer…and that's one factor that's beyond our control."

The other option is to continue communicating with HeadHunter to help in the search and recruitment for needed professionals. HeadHunter is an off-island recruitment firm that has a broad database of medical professionals and healthcare providers.

Nationwide staffing firm offers to help corporation fill up positions

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

An off-island staffing company is offering its services to help the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. fill its hard-to-fill positions on Saipan and Tinian.

Corporation CEO Juan N. Babauta disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that Nationwide Locum Tenens had contacted him to express its desire to assist the organization.

Nationwide Locum Tenens, LLC is a full service physician and mid-level staffing firm that focuses on locum tenens and other temporary placements and permanent staffing assignments. The company, according to its website, has staffed assignments throughout the United States and abroad. *Saipan Tribune* learned that Nationwide Locum Tenens has a history with the former Department of Public Health, providing temporary mid-level professionals for Tinian. The company, it was learned, recently helped bring in Dr. Frank Pairs to Tinian.

Its manager, Brian Taylor, confirmed in a letter to Babauta that payments for past services have been satisfied and the corporation's account is current.

"Having the balance squared away gives me confidence in our business relationship and I feel comfortable reaching out and talking with my other business associates to help find other providers in similar situations to Dr. Pairs that are willing to come to Saipan/Tinian and work 3-6 month assignments, if not longer," stated Taylor in his letter to the CEO.

Taylor pointed out that trying to find staff for the islands within current budget constraints is difficult because physicians are paid a great deal more in the U.S. mainland. The corporation needs to find candidates that may have "a little issue" but are not a risk to the healthcare of citizens, he added.

Taking this route, he said, will allow the corporation to pay someone a lower rate and, in turn, be able to reduce the bill rate.

He said providers will like the locum route as well because they will not feel obligated to stay here permanently. He believes, though, that over time the corporation will find some who will want to stay longer.

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CNMI, Guam mayors push for affordable interisland transportation

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

TINIAN—At least 21 mayors, vice mayors, and municipal council members from the CNMI and Guam are pushing for an "affordable and user-friendly" transportation between the Marianas, citing "high-priced" air fare and "restrictive quarantine" policies, during a three-day general assembly on Tinian beginning Friday.

Dignitaries and participants not only to the mayors' general assembly but two other major events on Friday on Tinian—a Senate session on the confirmation and swearing in of a new CNMI attorney general, and a U.S. military contracting forum—also experienced first-hand waiting for up to three hours to get a flight from Saipan to Tinian when there are events on Tinian.

The Association of the Mariana Islands' Mayors, Vice Mayors and Elected Municipal Council Members held their 19th General Assembly that wrapped up yesterday on Tinian with the theme "One People, One Voice, One Marianas."

Guam's Chalan Pago-Ordot Mayor Jessy C. Gogue said "strict" quarantine regulations or policies have made it more difficult to transport livestock and other agricultural products between the CNMI and Guam.

He cited "red tape" and bureaucracy as a factor.

Gogue also said this is aggravated by the high cost of interisland travel.

"We'd like to believe that the closer we are, the less expensive transportation should be. It doesn't work that way because to fly to the Northern Mariana Islands [from Guam] is almost just as expensive as to fly to the Philippines and you're going to a foreign country. It doesn't make sense," Gogue told *Saipan Tribune*. Gogue is the AMIM secretary.

Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola, president of AMIM, underscored the need for a reliable, more affordable interisland transportation.

"From past meetings, we tried to ask for the opening of the commuter terminal in Guam so we can ease passenger travel between the Marianas. The use of the international airport there requires two hours of waiting just to go to another island, especially for smaller aircraft between Guam and Rota… Hopefully that will also lower cost," he added.

Mendiola said there would have been more than 21 mayors, vice mayors, and elected council members attending the AMIM's general assembly "if we have better airline service."

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz introduced during the AMIM general assembly a resolution "to promote an affordable, user-friendly transportation between the Mariana Islands through a cooperative working relationship amongst the mayors of Guam and the CNMI and their respective ports authorities."

The assembly participants adopted Dela Cruz's resolution.

"I introduced a resolution today specifically highlighting this problem of transportation and the need for the mayors to work together to help relax some of these restrictions and to approve interisland commerce and interisland transportation to bring the cost of travel down," he said.

Dela Cruz said there have been talks about reunifying the CNMI and Guam for decades.

"My question is, how can we reunify the Marianas if we cannot even connect our airports? That's the first step," Dela Cruz said in an interview.

The CNMI and Guam were politically partitioned by the Spanish-American War. Guam has been a U.S. territory since 1898, while the Northern Mariana Islands has been a U.S. Commonwealth since 1978.

"It is excessively expensive and difficult to travel between Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands at this time…Much of the problem with providing les expensive, user-friendly, interisland transportation can be resolved by each territory's port authority…" the adopted resolution reads.

A copy of the resolution will be forwarded to CNMI and Guam delegates to the U.S. Congress, their respective Legislatures, the CNMI Commonwealth Ports Authority, and the Guam Airport Authority and other agencies.

FHB

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Ruane said.

There has been a corresponding decline in population, from a peak of 78,900 in 2004 to 53,900 in 2010, she said, and speculation that subsequent out-migration by foreign workers may have caused the level to drop to around 45,000 today.

"Combining the 2010 increase in GIP and the decline in population, CNMI's per-capita income stood at $11,484 in 2010, a 5.35-percent increase from the previous year—but well below the 2002 figure of $15,968," Ruane said.

She said the CNMI inflation rate has been steadily decreasing since 2007, when it was 14.8 percent, with recent estimates from the CNMI Department of Commerce showing CPI inflation for 2012 at 2.7 percent.

Visitor arrivals growing

"Tourism has been a strong contributor to this year's CNMI economy," she said, with visitor arrivals between January and June up 18.8 percent compared to the same period in 2011.

Currently, the CNMI is served by regular flights on Asiana Airlines (from Seoul and Busan); Sichuan Airlines (from Shanghai); Delta Air Lines (Tokyo); United Airlines (from many tourist markets to Guam and via United Connection to Saipan); and Freedom Air, (Guam, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota routes).

The Russian tourist market continues to be lucrative because Russian tourists stay longer and spend more, Ruane said.

Minimum wage increased

Under U.S. federal legislation, the report noted, CNMI minimum wages have increased since 2007, when the hourly rate was $3.05. The last increase, in September 2012, brought the minimum to $5.55. Ruane noted a 2011 study by the U.S. General Accountability Office found the minimum wage increases had adverse effects on local employers, as expected, but also on employees, who indicated that they worry about losing their jobs or reduced work hours.

One source of uncertainty caused by the federalization law was the status of the "CW" visa category, used by many local businesses to recruit foreign workers. The law envisions no foreign workers in the CNMI by the end of 2014, although an extension is possible if recommended by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and approved by the U.S. Department of Labor. ***(FHB)***

FEDS

From Page 1

Star Marianas Air executive vice president Shaun Christian told *Saipan Tribune* this after a news briefing on the accident that he described as the first-ever in the history of the company's operations since 1999.

"The National Traffic Safety Board as well as the FAA [Federal Aviation Administration] have been notified of the accident. The NTSB is sending an investigator who will be arriving tomorrow evening and it will be his responsibility to investigate and determine the cause of the accident," Christian said.

A press conference is scheduled today with CHC representatives to give further updates.

A Piper Cherokee aircraft with six tourists and a pilot onboard crashed on the runway around 6:20am soon after takeoff yesterday, killing one passenger. The plane was bound for Tinian carrying a Korean, a Filipino, and five Chinese nationals.

Authorities confirmed that a female Chinese tourist was pronounced dead on arrival at the Commonwealth Health Center due to widespread burns and multiple body fractures. Authorities have yet to release her name.

The Filipino, 55-year-old Juanito Simitara, suffered minor injuries only and was discharged after treatment at CHC. He was categorized as the walk-in victim at the public hospital.

Saipan Tribune learned that the aircraft's pilot, 26-year-old Korean national Jae Choi, is still in critical condition at the hospital's intensive care unit. He is on respiratory support. As of 5pm yesterday, it has not been decided yet if he will be airlifted to a Guam hospital.

The four other injured Chinese nationals who are currently being treated at the hospital's surgery department include Xiao Hwa Zhuo, who suffered first and second degree burns; Meiling Zhou, who sustained a fracture in the shoulders; Xin Hong, who suffered a lumbar fracture; and Xiu Hong Zhu, who sustained lacerations on the forehead.

Families of the victims were seen yesterday waiting outside the ER and being helped by many individuals, including representatives of Star Marianas Air.

According to Christian, a Star Marianas representative is on standby at the hospital to ensure that all support and the needs of the victims and their families are being address and provided for.

He said the company is also coordinating the possible medical evacuation of the pilot to the Guam hospital anytime.

Christian also said that the company will shoulder the medical expenses of all the victims.

"Star Marianas Air is providing whatever assistance and cooperation it can to the other passengers and government authorities," he added.

When asked about a possible timeframe for the release of the investigation results, Star Marianas lawyer Timothy Bellas said the process usually takes time.

The two officials disclosed that all Chinese nationals involved in the accident are not part of the inaugural flight of China Eastern that arrived early Friday morning.

Counseling

Incident commander John Tagabuel, during yesterday's press conference, said the families and relatives of the victims are being counseled by hospital staff since yesterday.

Tagabuel stressed that the incident is still under investigation and all information released by the hospital are classified as preliminary.

Like Christian, Tagabuel confirmed that the accident had one fatality and six injuries. He refused to disclose further details but said that families have been informed about the accident.

Based on CHC records, the crash was reported to the hospital at 6:45am, immediately activating the CHCC emergency center. At 7:10am, patients started to arrive at the emergency room, including one walk-in patient, the Filipino national.

Around 8:30am, CHC declared four patients to have been stabilized; one patient was released; and one was confirmed in critical condition. At 9:20am, the lone fatality was moved to the hospital morgue.

Tagabuel told reporters that communication is ongoing with the U.S. Coast Guard regarding the possible transfer of the pilot to Guam.

Hospital administrator Karen Buettner disclosed that as soon as the crash report was received, the emergency staff was activated, with doctors and nurses immediately attending to the victims. *Saipan Tribune* learned that at least seven doctors were at the ICU and ER.

Also at the hospital to check on the victims was Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio, who described yesterday's incident as tragic. Tenorio said MVA is collecting all information they can and sharing them with offshore offices to give updates to relatives of the victims in China.

CNMI

From Page 1

Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz told *Saipan Tribune*.

This is the first time in many years that a fatal plane crash happened in the CNMI.

In recent past, there were only hard landings and crashes involving small planes used in inter-island travel and resulted only in minor injuries.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, in a statement, said their prayers go out to the families of the passenger that perished and those who survived the accident at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport but they also said that the CNMI "is still a safe place."

"We want our residents and visitors to know that our Commonwealth, despite this unfortunate incident, is still a safe place. We also want to assure our friends and families abroad that we are assessing the situation and will take every action to ensure that a thorough investigation is conducted in a timely manner," they said.

Pol Madriaga, a 43-year-old accountant that travels between Saipan and Tinian as part of his job, said he was scheduled to fly to Tinian early yesterday morning for a company meeting but decided to ask for the meeting to be rescheduled.

He said he might have been on the same Star Marianas plane, which he prefers over Freedom Air.

"Yes, it makes you fear flying. But as I always do, I say a prayer for safe travel every time though the flight between Saipan and Tinian is short, about 10 minutes. But in this life, if it's your time, then it's your time; it doesn't have to be in a plane crash or car crash. You can just be staying at home and something hits you, you don't know," Madriaga said.

Rep. Edmund Villagomez, chairman of the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism, said yesterday's accident "might get some people nervous about flying" between the islands or to the CNMI but just like others, he hopes the fear would be short-lived.

Villagomez said the accident could also serve as "wake up" call for small and big airlines to "beef up their inspections."

"I think with this accident, people would demand more inspections of aircraft used," he said.

But Villagomez said despite the accident, the CNMI remains a safe destination for tourists and safe for inter-island travel.

"Like I said it would scare some people. For example, it's not every day that 9/11 happens but it happened once and people never forget about that. I wish this didn't happen," he added.

The fatal accident involving Chinese tourists happened at a time when the CNMI tourism industry is marketing the islands in the lucrative Chinese market.

An official from a travel agency said yesterday that despite the "tragic accident," the CNMI "is still a safe place" and they will continue to promote the islands.

The governor and lieutenant governor said the government is "in constant communication with emergency response officials to ensure that all the individuals involved, as well as their families, are receiving the best care and attention."

"While the National Transportation Safety Board and the Federal Aviation Administration have been notified, DPS [Department of Public Safety] and the CPA [Commonwealth Ports Authority] Ports Police are working with the FBI on this investigation at this time. We extend our utmost thanks to the hardworking individuals of these agencies, as well as CHC and the Office of Homeland Security and all other first responders for their prompt action to stabilize the situation. We will continue to monitor the investigation and will report more information as it becomes available," they added.

The cause of the fatal accident is still under investigation.

Officials from the National Transportation Safety Board and the Federal Aviation Administration are expected to arrive on Saipan today to start the federal investigation.

Rotary gears up for 2013 Parade of Books

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Camacho

The Rotary Club of Saipan is sending out an early invitation to public and private elementary schools in the CNMI for its Annual Parade of Books.

The event, which is part of the Rotary Club of Saipan's effort to encourage reading and literary creativity, is slated for Saturday, April 13, 2013.

School teams are encouraged to register immediately to begin preparations, said Rotarian Reina Camacho, 2012 coordinator who will also be at the forefront of preparations for next year's program.

Camacho said an orientation meeting is scheduled next Wednesday, Nov. 28, from 4pm to 5pm at the Marianas High School gymnasium's conference room to determine the 2013 theme.

"Schools are interested in continuing with a theme," she said. "At the close of the 2012 event, teachers were open to the idea and I'm hoping we can finalize those ideas and ensure proper planning and coordination."

Camacho said cash prizes await the winners of the 2013 Parade of Books. A grand prize of $1,000 will go to the school that wins first place, $750 for second place, $500 for third place, $300 for fourth place, $200 for fifth place, and $100 as consolation prizes.

Oleai Elementary School emerged as the winning school in this year's competition, besting six other schools after garnering a total score of 146.4 points for their interpretation of The Legend of the Blue Bonnet. The book was among the selected titles that reflect the values and principles of Rotary.

"I love reading and I hope teachers and parents will be supportive of the Parade of Books event. The Rotary Club of Saipan would especially like to have participation from all elementary schools, public and private," added Camacho.

For more information, email reinacamacho@gmail.com or saipanrotary@gmail.com.

DPW hosts third-grader for 'Take a Child to Work Day'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Oleai Elementary School third grader Easton Dela Cruz might just consider engineering as a future career after touring the Department of Public Works on Nov. 15 for the school's "Take A Child to Work Day."

Part of Oleai Elementary School's Education Month celebration, the program creates an educational opportunity for students by having their parents bring them to work then submit an activity report about their experience

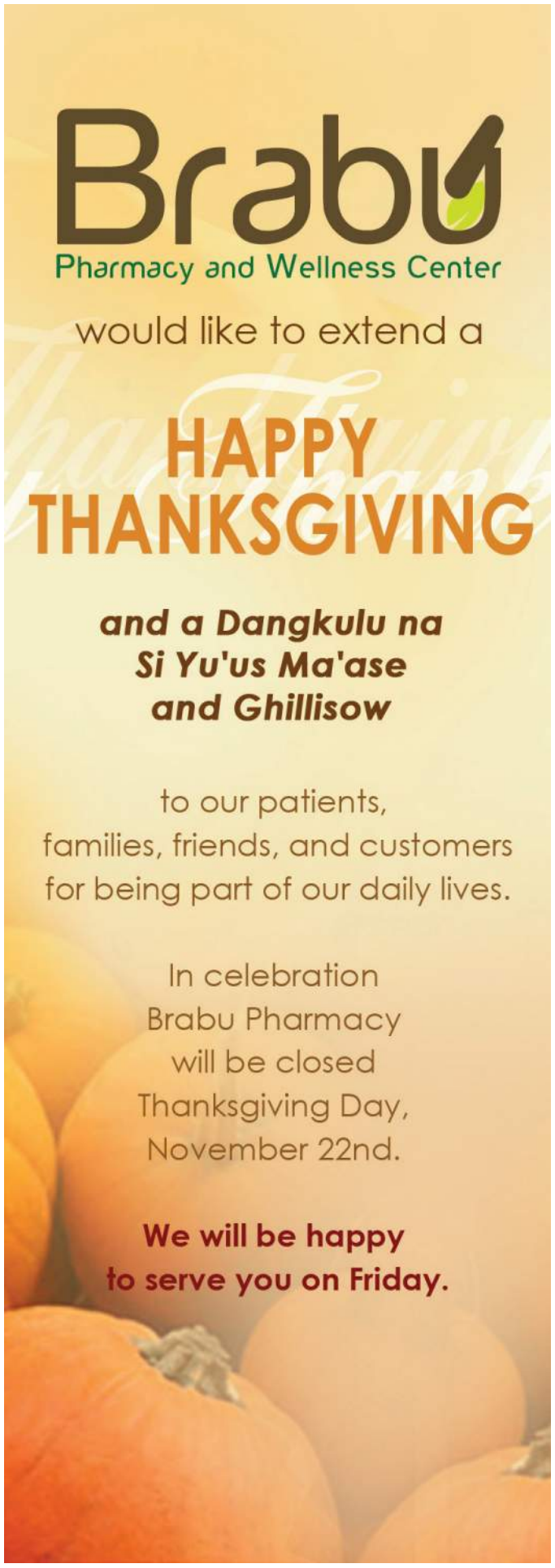
Dela Cruz

Dela Cruz, 7, is the third of five children of Joey and Elaine Dela Cruz, who encouraged her son to learn more about DPW through the boy's aunt, Geralyn Dela Cruz, who works at the agency as real estate and planning specialist under the Highway Division.

As part of his agency tour, Easton Dela Cruz met with staff of the Administrative, Highway, Building Safety Code, and Accounting divisions and attended a planning meeting.

Easton Dela Cruz also visited DPW's recent Cross Island Project, wearing a safety hard hat and vest, which he said was his favorite part.

"DPW taught him about building code permits and inspections and stressed the importance of obtaining a permit to ensure that all buildings are in compliance," Geralyn Dela Cruz told *Saipan Tribune*.



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is inviting qualified, U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

(2) ACCOUNTANT
Degree in accounting required; Minimum three (3) years work experience; preferably in hospitality; Strong command of Excel and must be knowledgeable in using Epitome System; Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR
Degree in accounting required; Minimum five (5) years work experience with at least one (1) year of supervisory experience; preferably in hospitality. Degree in accounting is required; CPA preferred; Degree in accounting is required; CPA preferred; Strong command of Excel and Word and must be knowledgeable in using Epitome System, MAS 90, Kronos Payroll System and WebCash Management system; Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) ACCOUNTING MANAGER
This is a highly responsible professional in financial and accounting position in the company's fiscal activities. Directly responsible to the Finance Director and is expected to function as such in the absence of the Finance Director. Degree in accounting is required; US CPA preferred; Five (5) years of management experience required. Strong Microsoft Office knowledge (Excel, Word, Visio and Powerpoint) skills are required. Required experience in using Epitome, MAS 90 system (General Ledger, Accounts Payable, Purchase Order, Inventory Management modules), Kronos Payroll System and WebCash Management system.

(1) AIR CONDITIONING AUTO MECHANIC
Minimum 4 years work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) RESTAURANT MANAGER
This position monitors the daily operations of each restaurant function to ensure a positive guest experience and will profitably manage the overall operations of the restaurants. Will maintain all service aspects of food and beverage functions in accordance with the policies of the hotel. Minimum five (5) years restaurant and/or hotel food and beverage experience required. Minimum two (2) years previous F&B Leadership experience required. Previous experience in a first-class, medium to large resort preferred. Excellent written and oral communication skills are necessary. Considerable expert knowledge of banquet set-ups, policies and procedures. Must be able to successfully coordinate staff and resources in high volume, time sensitive environment. Must have experience in budgeting and managing banquet operations. Position requires work during weekends, holidays, and evenings.

(4) BAKER
Minimum three (3) years related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) BANQUETS MANAGER
This position monitors the daily operations of each banquet function to ensure a positive guest experience and will profitably manage the overall operations of the Banquet Department. Maintains all service aspects of banquet functions in accordance with the policies of the hotel. Minimum of five (5) years restaurant and/or hotel food and beverage experience required. Minimum two (2) years previous Banquet Leadership experience required. Previous experience in a first-class, medium to large resort preferred. Excellent written and oral communication skills are necessary. Considerable expert knowledge of banquet set-ups, policies and procedures. Must be able to successfully coordinate staff and resources in a high volume, time sensitive environment. The F&B Banquets Manager must have experience in budgeting and managing banquet operations. Position requires work during weekends, holidays, and evenings.

(1) BUILDING MAINTENANCE
Minimum three (3) years related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) BOILER ENGINEER
Minimum three (3) years of relevant work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(2) CARPENTER
Minimum five (5) years work experience as a cabinet maker. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) ELECTRICIAN
Minimum five (5) years work experience with license. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) ELECTRICIAN SUPERVISOR
Responsible for electrical maintenance, repair and communication of systems for the hotel. Five (5) years of relevant work experience as an Electrician, plus five (5) supervisory experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN SUPERVISOR (SPORTS, ENTERTAINMENT & ACTIVITIES DEPT)
Responsible for property wide sound systems and in-house video. Must have a strong background in Audio and Video. Responsible for all technical aspects on all event orders, and making sure that these areas are covered. Assist in Clubmate duties when necessary. Must be able to meet and perform all requirements of the PIC Clubmate position including meeting all American Red Cross life guarding standards. Three (3) years experience as Supervisor in similar role required.

(6) BARTENDER
Minimum one (1) year work experience. Must be at least 21 years old. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) EXECUTIVE CHEF
Work requires eight (8) years progressive experience in high volume food production or catering in multi-unit restaurant Hotel or Resort environment. Experience preparing multi-ethnic cuisine is required. Must have the following: strong leadership/communication skills at all levels of the organization. Exceptional guest focus and proven positive employee relations skills a must. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) EXECUTIVE SOUS CHEF
Work requires six (6) years progressive experience in high volume food production or catering in multi-unit restaurant Hotel or Resort environment. Experience preparing multi-ethnic cuisine is required. Must have the following: strong leadership/communication skills at all levels of the organization. Exceptional guest focus and proven positive employee relations skills a must. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(3) FOOD SERVER CAPTAIN
Minimum 18 months related work experience, one (1) year supervisory experience required. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(5) FOOD & BEVERAGE SUPERVISOR
Three (3) years related work experience, two (2) years supervisory experience required. Supervises employees engaged in serving foods in restaurants and maintaining cleanliness of food service areas and equipment. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(3) GUEST RELATIONS
Minimum one (1) year hospitality experience; Must have the ability to solve guest concerns and cash handling. Must be able to speak/read/write English and one or more of the following languages: Korean, Russian or Japanese. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) GUEST RELATIONS SUPERVISOR
Minimum one (1) year hospitality experience plus one (1) year of supervisory experience; Must have the ability to solve guest concerns and handles cash. Must be able to speak/read/write English and one or more of the following languages: Korean, Russian or Japanese. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) GUEST SERVICE SUPERVISOR
One (1) year supervisory experience plus experience driving large passenger vehicles are required; Must be able to work graveyard shifts/weekends/holidays. Must be at least 18 years of age, possess a valid CNMI driver's license, and pass a medical exam and substance abuse test. Must provide a traffic clearance.

(4) GARDENER
Minimum 3 years work experience; Must have a working knowledge in landscaping chemistry. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) HVAC TECHNICIAN
Minimum four (4) years work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(6) HOUSEKEEPING SUPERVISOR
One (1) year Housekeeping Supervisor experience required (minimum 300 rooms hotel). Motivated self starter, ability to clean rooms as required, responsible for checking up to 80 rooms per shift. Must be able to work graveyard shifts, weekends and holidays.

(1) JAPAN SALES MANAGER
Coordinates all local Japanese sales efforts. Develops and maintains relationships with local Japanese tour companies and local representatives of Japan wholesalers. Responsibilities include coordinating all local marketing efforts targeted to Japanese tourists while in Saipan, placing advertisements in Japanese language publications, forecasting wholesaler materialization, organizing Japanese groups, representing hotel at JSTA and local Japanese Society, supervising Japanese market campaigns, conducting weekly sales calls and hosting Japanese media and travel agent familiarization tours. Prepares weekly and monthly reports. Three (3) years of Sales Manager experience is required. Proficiency in Japanese language (verbal, written, reading) as well as Japanese Office, Epitome, Japanese hotel booking systems is required.

(3) LAUNDRY ATTENDANT
Minimum 6 months work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(4) MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR
Five (5) years related experience, plus three (3) years supervisory experience.

MUSICIANS (3-pc band)
Minimum two (2) years experience as a musician; Must be able to perform music in English as well as Japanese/Korean/Russian; Need to be able to play a variety of music genres, classical, pop, rock, reggae, country etc. Must be able to play on an individual, duo and trio basis; At least one member must be a classical pianist, playing classical music during restaurant dining hours. Must be able to host events, MC events, be able to promote audience participation during sing-a-long shows. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays. Subject to audition.

(1) NIGHT AUDITOR
College graduate with major in Accounting; Five (5) years of relevant work experience. Business knowledge on the basic functions of debits and credits; Knowledge on hotel-related systems particularly on front-office systems and point-of-sale systems of the hotel industry; Strong command of Excel and must be knowledgeable in using Epitome and Micros System; Familiarity on how the hotel settlement system works (cash, room charge, credit card transaction or similar); MUST be able to work from 11:00 pm to 7:00 am; May involve shift work, including working on weekends and holidays.

(1) NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR
Thorough knowledge of all software and hardware is required; this includes all Microsoft Windows Desktop and Server operating systems, Microsoft Application support, SQL Administration skills, Access Database and Crystal Report design skills with IIS, ASP and HTML Skills, Property Management System (Epitome), Point-of-Sale System (MICROS 9700), PMS Interface System (Liaison), Call Accounting System (Winsuite), Voice Mail System & Accounting System (MAS90). Microsoft Exchange 2010 and Active Directory 2008 experience is highly desirable. Experience in the use of electronic mail (mail relays, spam filters and mail integrity) and Internet protocols (e.g. TCP/IP, PPP, and IMAP). Sound knowledge of routers, firewalls, network security, network configuration and construction, switches and fiber is required. Applicant should have in depth knowledge of PBX Telephone Systems, PC and Server hardware, new PC and Server installations, WIFI configuration and support, System backups and general network administration. We require a self-sufficient, career-minded person to provide support to our IT team. Must have sound IT industry experience (5 years minimum). Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to support a 24hr business are also essential. A+, Network+, and/or MCP certification are also highly desirable.

(1) PASTRY SUPERVISOR
Minimum five (5) years pastry experience plus two (2) years supervisory experience is required. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) PLUMBER
Minimum of five (5) years related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(2) POOL MAINTENANCE
Minimum two (2) years related work experience. Previous HAZMAT training preferred; Shift begins at 2:00 a.m. daily

(1) POWERHOUSE SUPERVISOR
Minimum three (3) years experience in diesel power generator operations and one (1) year of supervisory experience. Must be a certified Water Treatment operator Class 2 and Water Distribution Class 1. Must be a certified Class A/B UST operator; Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(3) POWERHOUSE OPERATOR
Minimum five (5) years related work experience; Certified Water treatment & Distribution operator preferred; Must be a certified Class A/B UST operator. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) POWERHOUSE MANAGER
Job requires seven (7) years in diesel power generator operations and repair, with five (5) years of management experience. Must be certified Water Treatment Plant operator Class 2 and Water distribution Class 1. Must be a certified Class A/B UST operator. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) PURCHASING MANAGER
Plan, direct, or coordinate the activities of buyers, purchasing officers, and related workers involved in purchasing materials, products, and services. Ability to use supplier / vendor metrics (specifications) and must have clear understanding of commodity strategies. Experience with activities including but not limited to supporting Engineering requirements, tracking upcoming orders (lead time) and processing custom & shipment requirements. Capability to execute and manage issues to support daily business needs. Degree in finance or business is required. Five (5) years of management experience required, preferably in hospitality industry. Strong command of Excel and Word and knowledge in using MAS 90 system (Accounts Payable, Purchase Order, Inventory Management modules) are required.

(5) PUBLIC AREA ATTENDANT
Minimum 6 months work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays

(1) RESERVATIONS SUPERVISOR
Controls all bookings for the resort to ensure high yield and profitability; One (1) year of supervisory experience, preferably in hospitality. Must be able to use Microsoft Excel and hotel reservation system. Must be able to understand/speak/read/write English and Korean. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(14) ROOM ATTENDANT
Motivated self starter; responsible for cleaning up to 17 rooms per shift. Minimum 6 months work experience. Must be able to work graveyard shifts, weekends and holidays

(1) RUSSIAN MARKET COORDINATOR
Assists the Russian Market Manager with sales activities and daily operations of establishment: Finalizes booking invoices for Russian reservations to ensure accuracy. Coordinates Russian market collateral and maintains competitive analysis on Russian travel websites. Mandatory written, reading and speaking fluency in English and Russian. Prepares month end reports. Proficiency in MS Office and Epitome.

(1) SALES ASSOCIATE
Minimum one (1) year work experience. Previous cashiering experience preferred. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

Applications must be received by 5:00pm on DECEMBER 5, 2012.

PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance. A copy of valid police clearance (less than 6 months old) must be attached to the application.

Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.
Skills testing may be required for some positions.
PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

NMI Scholarship Office has new chief

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has named Rose S. Pangelinan as the new NMI Scholarship Office administrator. The new appointee replaces former chief Jacqueline Che who quit the position to join the Northern Marianas College as one of its directors.

Fitial, in his appointment letter on Nov. 14, asked department and activity heads to extend their full cooperation and assistance to the new Scholarship Office administrator. The appointment, according to the governor, takes effect immediately.

Pangelinan is no stranger to the CNMI Scholarship Office because she served the agency from 2007 through 2010 as the agency's compliance officer during the term of former administrator Merissa S. Rasa. In 2010, she moved to another government agency, first as financial manager of the Coastal Resources Management Office before being promoted to grant planner.

Pangelinan officially reported to the scholarship office yesterday. On her first day, she began reorganizing the agency following the recent relocation of its office. Pangelinan is one of the two personnel at the agency.

She told *Saipan Tribune* that her immediate priority for now is to make sure that financial checks for students are released as soon as possible so as not to hamper their studies here and abroad.

The NMI Scholarship Office functions under the Office of the Governor. Its primary mission is to provide financial assistance to eligible CNMI students pursuing postsecondary education.

For this fall 2012 semester, a total of 654 applications have been approved for both off-island and on-island recipients: 415 are enrolled at the Northern Marianas College while 239 are studying abroad.

This fiscal year, the program was allocated a $2-million budget for its Honors and EAP scholarship programs. EAP stands for Education Assistance Program. Unlike previous fiscal years, a big portion of this budget—about $1.1 million—is directly appropriated to the Northern Marianas College for its scholars under the program.

Since the departure of Che, the office was temporarily placed under the supervision of the Office of the Special Assistant for Administration while Che continued to serve as interim administrator until a replacement is named. Che served the position for more than a year. She was the successor of Merissa Rasa.

Patrick Diaz appointed Clerk of the Superior Court

Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja has appointed Patrick Villagomez Diaz to the position of Clerk of Court of the Commonwealth Superior Court effective Nov. 18, 2012.

Diaz

The Clerk of Court is responsible for the management of the trial court's case flow processes and the daily operations of the Office of the Clerk of Court on Rota, Saipan, and Tinian.

Diaz earned his B.A. in Justice Studies from Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona, in 1993. Certified as a mediator by the CNMI Supreme Court in 2001, Diaz also holds over 125 combined training and certification credits in social science, child behavior, and court management services. Diaz graduated from Marianas High School on Saipan, in 1986.

Diaz's employment history began with Karidat Social Services in April 1994 where he served as a youth program coordinator until September 1997. He joined the CNMI Judiciary in September 1997 as the Family Court coordinator for the Family Court Division of the Superior Court. Since November 1994 up to his recent appointment, he served as the Family Court manager and represented the Family Court Division in various collaborative task forces and interagency justice programs involving the trial court. Under Diaz's leadership, the Family Court Division was honored by the National Criminal Justice Association as the recipient of the 2010 National Justice Association Outstanding Justice Program Award for "best practice" evidence based program.

Diaz's tenure with the courts brought him under the leadership of former presiding judges Alexandro C. Castro and Edward Manibusan, and, all the past and recent associate judges assigned to the Family Court docket.

"I am confident that Patrick Diaz's esteemed professionalism, experience, and commitment to public service will continue to assist the trial court in ensuring access to and dispensing justice," stated Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja. ***(NMI Judiciary)***

DUI checkpoints on Rota, Saipan

The Department of Public Safety will be conducting DUI/sobriety checkpoints this Friday and Saturday on Rota.

On Friday, Nov. 23, 2012, the first setup will be at the San Francisco Highway, Chaliat by the Mateo Santos property, from 9pm to 10:15pm. The second setup will be on the San Francisco Highway, Igua area, from 11:30pm to 12:45am.

On Saturday, Nov. 24, 2012, the first setup will be on the San Francisco Highway by Guata' Beach, from 8pm to 9:15pm. The second setup will be on the San Francisco Highway by Sonton Beach, from 12am to 1:15am.

On Saipan, there will be DUI/sobriety checkpoints on Nov. 30, 2012, with the first setup from 12am to 1:15am, along Beach Road Chalan Laulau by Char's Mart. The second setup is from 2:30am to 3:45am, along Chalan Pale' Arnold by the Commonwealth Development Authority Office.

DPS has also scheduled other DUI/sobriety checkpoints for December on Rota.

On Dec. 5, 2012, the first setup will be from 6:30pm to 7:45pm, along the San Francisco Highway, Lotgan Area. The second setup is from 10pm to 11:15pm along the San Francisco Highway, Sinapalo 1 by IT&E Office.

On Dec. 7, 2012, the first setup is from 7pm to 8:15pm along the San Francisco Highway Tatachog, by the Rota Mayor's Office. The second setup is from 10:30pm to 11:45pm along the San Francisco Highway Chaliat by Mateo Santos' property.

On Dec. 21, 2012, the first setup is from 7:30pm to 8:45pm, San Francisco Highway, District 2 by Bank of Guam. The second setup is from 12am to 1:15am along Routa 100, by 3 Kings Too.

On Dec. 22, 2012, the first setup is from 7pm to 8:15pm, along the San Francisco Highway Lotgan Area. The second setup is from 12am to 1:45am along the San Francisco Highway, Sinapalo 3 by Sinapalo 3 Park.

Each checkpoint will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour and 15 minutes).

This activity is part of DPS' efforts to deter, detect, and apprehend impaired drivers.

Traffic and patrol officers will also be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrols, aggressive driver interdictions, and laser (speed detection) enforcement. ***(DPS)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Air Force training on Farallon de Medinilla

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Nov. 21, from 10:30am to 4:30pm. The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. ***(PR)***

The ABC' of 401(k) plan

The Society for Human Resource Management CNMI Chapter's November general membership meeting will focus on the topic of "ABC's of 401(k) Plan for Employer/Employee," which will be presented by ASC Trust Corp. The lunch meeting will be held at the Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret tomorrow, Nov. 21, 2012, from 11:30am to 1:30pm.

This presentation is open to the public. The presentation includes lunch and the cost is $20 for SHRM members and $30 for non-members. Reserve your seat by contacting Debra Camacho at 322-6435 or e-mail her at debrac@ptcsaipan.com. ***(SHRM)***

Auntie Mag's Catering

Thanksgiving Special

1 $35.00 — 2 baked chicken, stuffing, 2 lbs. fresh mashed potatoes, gravy and sponge cake

2 $45.00 — 7-10lbs picnic ham, 2 lbs. fresh mashed potatoes, gravy and sponge cake

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EPA hosts toxic release inventory workshop

Twenty-five representatives of local industrial facilities, environmental consulting companies, and federal facilities in the CNMI attended the Toxics Release Inventory or TRI technical assistance workshop on Oct. 31 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan.

The free training was designed to help these representatives determine if their facilities are required to report to TRI and to provide information on how to do so if reporting is required, said John Wilhelmi, who conducted last month's training.

TRI is a database maintained by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that contains information about the amounts of more than 650 toxic chemicals that some facilities release to the environment and manage as waste.

"The data included in TRI is submitted by representatives of industrial facilities and federal facilities. It is therefore important that these individuals understand the TRI reporting requirements, and that is why the TRI training was targeted to this audience," Wilhelmi explained.

Wilhelmi, vice president of Eastern Research Group, Inc. or ERG, disclosed that their company has a contract to support U.S. EPA Region 9 office in San Francisco with the TRI program.

ERG's contract, Wilhelmi said, allowed him to conduct the training workshops on Saipan and in Guam. Approximately 50 participants took part in the TRI workshop at the Guam Power Authority on Oct. 26.

According to Wilhelmi, ERG employees have taught more than a hundred EPA-sponsored workshops on the TRI program in the mainland in the past 15 years.

While EPA has made available TRI compliance assistance to the islands through webinars and online pre-recorded training sessions, last month's trainings were the first "in-person" workshops in the Marianas.

Wilhelmi noted that participants had varying degrees of knowledge about TRI. "Some people were quite familiar with the reporting requirements and had been submitting TRI data to EPA for several years, and other people had never heard of TRI and attended the workshops to determine if the reporting requirements apply to them," Wilhelmi said.

TRI reporting is an annual requirement, and he urged representatives of CNMI facilities to determine if they are required to report and ensure that their reporting is completed by July 1 of the following year.

Since TRI reporting is required under federal regulation, failure to submit TRI forms can result in enforcement and fines.

The latest TRI data for the Commonwealth, released in January 2012, showed that the volume of toxic chemicals released decreased from 6,108 lbs in 2009 to 5,695 lbs in 2010. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Nov. 20, 2000

Bill to keep foreign workers in govt tossed back to House

After derailing its approval for nearly a month, the Senate on Friday tossed back to the lower house a measure that will allow the government to keep its nonresident workers in key departments and agencies until 2005. The House of Representatives will have to act on some amendments to the bill, including removal of the Office of Public Auditor and Department of Commerce from the exemption. HB 12-285, offered by House Health and Welfare Committee chair Rep. Malua T. Peter, seeks to extend by five more years the sunset provisions of a law prohibiting employment of foreign workers in the government.

Eucon asks BOR to hasten regulation policies

The Eucon International School is pressing the Board of Regents not to rule out the admission of non-accredited institutions seeking to apply for license to operate as a postsecondary school in the Northern Marianas, citing the inclusion of such policy could impede the school's plans to set up a private college on island. Eucon president Dr. Christian Wei said that while it is part of EIS' long-term objective to gain full accreditation, new institutions cannot be expected to be ready with such credentials upon its first few years of operation. "I think this is common sense that if you are going to start a college, you will never get accredited immediately.

Nov. 20, 2001

Woman suspected of credit card fraud

Authorities are investigating a possible theft by deception case at the X-Colors shop in Garapan, where a woman allegedly purchased more than $1,000 worth of items charged to a credit card account that was not her own. The suspect, identified as Gail Camacho, allegedly visited the Garapan store four times since July 2001 and bought a long list of items, merely using the credit card number, without the card. Quoting preliminary police investigations, Department of Public Safety spokesperson Cecilia T. Celes said that Camacho, a former employee of the Joeten Shopping Center Garapan branch, transacted with X-Colors cashier Marietta Alcantara every time she made the purchases.

Controlling nonpoint source pollution in the CNMI

Like other tropical islands, the CNMI is also susceptible to the pitfalls of nonpoint source pollution, which is caused by runoff from rainfall moving over into the ground from large areas and many different sources. As the runoff moves across the land, it picks up both man-made and natural pollutants, which are eventually deposited in coastal waters, and even in the underground drinking water. These pollutants can contaminate wetlands, marine waters and ground water. Pollutants entering wetlands and marine waters are especially a cause of concern since they can result in serious harm to wildlife and marine life including fish and corals.

Nov. 20, 2002

PSS says OPA deduction must be taken from net budget

Amid a tight budget condition, the Public School System argues that the mandated 1 percent operations budget deduction for the Office of the Public Auditor be taken from the agency's net budget, not the gross amount of $37.2 million. Board of Education chairman Herman T. Guerrero said that the OPA account should be deducted from the PSS' projected net budget of $36.5 million, rather than $37.2 million from which a 2 percent legislative reduction is taken. The Legislature deducts 2 percent from all government-approved budgets to settle a long-standing budget deficit.

Legislator slams 'tyranny' in Senate

Rep. Stanley T. Torres said that Saipan residents may have been denied all representation in the Senate illegally and unconstitutionally for the time being, but they now can see clearly how the rulers of Rota operate at home. "Senator [Paul A.] Manglona did not even bother to wait for his court date to challenge the current Senate leadership," Torres said, "but proceeded to suspend every Saipan senator and even threatened to deny them access to the legislative hall. Our Saipan Senate members were not given due process." "Given the total lack of respect for law and due process that was demonstrated on Rota, it is easy to see what living on that island might be like if you are an average citizen rather than a member of the imperial family that has run the island for over 40 long years," he added.

Chinese media reps tour hotels, shops, historic sites for features

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Marianas Visitors Authority officials led by Bruce Bateman and Century Tours vice president for destination management Alexander R.J. Stutely pose for a group photo with the captain and crew of China Eastern Airlines and media and travel partners from Beijing here for a familiarization tour.

China Eastern Airlines touched down earlier than its scheduled arrival at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport Friday morning with 295 passengers that included a bevy of media representatives, here to check out what the island can offer.

Century Tours vice president Alex Stutely told *Saipan Tribune* that the media group will tour Saipan as a separate group from the other passengers who are mostly couples and some families with their children. Most are first-timers to the CNMI.

Among the areas the media familiarization team wants to see are the various hotels, shops, and island activities.

Stutely said the 22 media representatives from China were recognized during a news briefing Friday noon at Kanoa Resort where each of them was given the opportunity to meet and ask questions with officials of the Marianas Visitors Authority, representatives of the various hotels, and officials from the Century Tours, which charters the flight.

The media group included Pan Zi Fei and Quan Wei from BTV; Bao Li and Dong Xiao Gang of CCTV-2; Hou Li Bin of 163.com; Zhou Bo Hai of Sohu.com; Liu Feng of *Beijing Youth* newspaper; Li Zhan of *Traveler Weekly*; Zhang Jia Qian of *Beijing Evening Newspaper*; Wang Li Bin of *Xinhua News*; Gao Lei of Beijing Radio; Zeng Xiao Dan and Niu Yue of Ctrip; Liu Xiang Hui, Fan Xue Wen, and Han Xiao of Jilin TV Station; Shang Yin and Guan Zhu Man of Harbin Radio; Kong Xiang Guang and Qiao Wei of Follow Me Harbin TV Station; Liu Yan of *Photographic Travel*; and Huang Jing of Century Tours.

Besides the Q&A portion, the Chinese media group was also presented videos about the island and an overview of Century Tours and its plan to bring in more Chinese tourists to Saipan.

Both groups—media and tourists—are scheduled to depart Saipan on Thursday while the second flight of China Eastern was expected yesterday.

Besides China Eastern, Century Tours also charters direct flights from Shanghai and Guangzhou using Sichuan Airlines.

The charter flights from Beijing will fly three times a week: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. These flights will bring in about 900 tourists from China each week.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

A misstep for a man, a giant blunder for a CIA chief

Powerful man, beguiling woman: The combination has been sabotaging national interests since the days of Troy. Should David Petraeus' affair with groupie-biographer Paula Broadwell have forced his resignation? Sadly, yes.

It's not a matter of Puritanism, which – take note, sophisticates – hardly saturates American culture these days. Although betrayal of marriage vows and a wife of 37 years reflects poorly on Petraeus as a husband, it's the least of the reasons this distinguished soldier had to step down as the nation's chief intelligence officer.

Far more important is the fundamental lack of judgment and caution Petraeus displayed in getting himself entangled with Broadwell.

As a West Point graduate, Reserve lieutenant colonel and all-around American superwoman, she hardly seems a treacherous Bond girl. Still, Petraeus let his guard down, an inexcusable lapse in a CIA chief.

He potentially exposed himself to blackmail, and he opened a clandestine door into his affairs that might have been exploited by someone close to Broadwell. An intelligence official bent on carrying on outside his marriage should at least keep a few alert colleagues in the loop.

Indulging in loose-lipped communications on a common email account was a foolish performance all by itself.

A president must have absolute confidence in his CIA director's personal integrity and judgment. Petraeus' actions forfeited that trust.

This scandal keeps on getting spookier. The timing – just after the presidential election – is more than weird. There's also the apparently political leakage of the dirt through an FBI back channel: An agent reportedly tipped off House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., on Oct. 27. The call was arranged by Rep. Dave Reichert, a Republican from Washington state.

The seamy business then spilled onto the top NATO commander in Afghanistan, Marine Gen. John R. Allen. He's been ensnared in an investigation of his connection with a Florida woman who in turn is connected to Petraeus and the ubiquitous Broadwell.

So far, Allen is a sideshow. The real damage lies in the loss of Petraeus. He served the United States brilliantly in Iraq and Afghanistan, and he might have done the same in the CIA. His blunder has deprived the nation of an invaluable strategic visionary at a moment when his vision is sorely needed at the top.

It's a shame that this scandal will always dog America's memories of Petraeus, just as the Monica Lewinsky affair will always dog Bill Clinton. Leaders shouldn't be defined by the dumbest thing they ever did. But when it's dumb enough to be unforgettable, its place in history is assured.

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On thin ice in the Arctic

By SETH ANDRE MYERS
LOS ANGELES TIMES

In the final presidential debate, when explaining why the Navy has fewer ships than in 1916, President Obama famously quipped that the United States also has "fewer horses and bayonets," setting off a debate over quality versus quantity. In the Arctic—an increasingly important part of the world—the situation is simpler. When it comes to patrolling and securing the Arctic, the United States has neither quality nor quantity.

The rapid melting of the Arctic sea ice is opening up previously unnavigable areas to shipping and drilling. Many scientists predict that by 2030, the Arctic Ocean will experience ice-free conditions during the summer. The Northwest Passage—the once-mythical sea route between the Atlantic and the Pacific near the top of the world that explorers spent centuries searching for—is fast becoming a reality. Already, the maritime area in which the U.S. Coast Guard is responsible for safety, security and environmental protection missions is experiencing a significant increase in traffic.

To meet this challenge, the Coast Guard has three Arctic-capable icebreakers: two heavy-duty icebreakers—both of which were commissioned in the mid-1970s—and a more modern medium-duty icebreaker, the Healy. Were all three operational, the United States would lag behind several other Arctic nations in capabilities; in fact, only one—the Healy—is currently operational. According to a Coast Guard study, it will need at least six heavy-duty and four medium icebreakers just to meet mission requirements.

The Navy is not significantly better equipped. After its 2011 Fleet Arctic Operations War Game, the Navy concluded that it was not able to adequately perform long-term Arctic operations and would have to rely on support from the Coast Guard, among others, to bolster its capacity.

The 2013 fiscal year budget includes money to begin the acquisition of one icebreaker, but it remains unpassed. With the threat of automatic spending cuts in early 2013, known as sequestration—and other cuts to the defense budget likely even if the so-called fiscal cliff is averted—there seems to be little appetite in Washington to invest in new and upgraded Arctic-capable systems.

Thus, for all the talk of projecting power abroad and ensuring the freedom of the seas, we are unable to effectively patrol the waters off our own territory, and this in an area whose importance is growing at a rate perhaps second only to that of the Asia-Pacific region.

In the meantime, other Arctic nations are taking the initiative. Norway, Canada and Russia have made developing both their military and civilian capabilities in the Arctic a priority. Russia has 25 icebreakers, some nuclear-powered. Canada has initiated a modernization program of its navy and coast guard to include a new icebreaker and several new Arctic patrol ships.

The United States' lack of investment in the Arctic is not limited to the military. Obama routinely speaks of investing in America's infrastructure and rebuilding roads and rails. This is an admirable goal, but in most of north Alaska, there simply isn't much infrastructure to rebuild. It must, instead, be built in the first place. As a result, development in the region has lagged behind that of the rest of Alaska and created an exaggerated tyranny of distance between towns. In the supermarket in Barrow, the northernmost city in the United States, for example, one can find orange juice on sale for the eye-watering price of $24 a gallon because of the costs of transporting basic goods.

Again, the United States would do well to look to other Arctic nations for inspiration. Norway, for example, has invested in new roads, and it is looking to improve existing infrastructure in its high north and to more effectively link the region to neighboring countries. The United States isn't.

The manner and extent to which we develop the Arctic remains, admittedly, undecided and controversial, especially with regard to the extraction of its natural resources. Amid significant opposition from environmental groups, Shell Oil has begun drilling offshore wells in the Alaskan Arctic, though setbacks have delayed completion of the wells until the summer of 2013 at the earliest.

However, the development of our infrastructure and military, search-and-rescue and security capabilities in the region need not—and indeed should not—be reliant on any future decisions to increase drilling or mining. The reality is that the Arctic is increasingly busy. Cruise ships are already operating in the region; it is only a matter of time before freight and tanker shipping follows. It would be tragic if swaths of wilderness were polluted because a ship suffered an accident and the U.S. was forced to stand by idly and await help from another nation.

From the original purchase of Alaska being derided as "Seward's Folly," the United States has long had an ambivalent relationship with the Arctic. However, there probably will come a point when it will be forced to reckon with its role as an Arctic nation, whether or not we are prepared. We would do well to invest in our capabilities there now, lest we find ourselves reliant on little more than sled dogs and ice picks.

Seth Andre Myers is a research associate in the national security studies program of the Council on Foreign Relations. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

In White America

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

The headline grabber in news US of A are the secessionist petitions being forwarded to the White House after the last presidential election. The focus, of course, is on the separatist spirit, not unhistorically related to the southern Confederacy that propelled the union to a civil war more than a century ago. Sparse as the numbers still are, the media attention is on those who have yet to accept an Obama election victory. I find the encouraging news to be the fact that the executive office structured a "democratic" ear to the grassroots pulse, making a petition with 25,000 signatories eligible for a West Wing response.

Texas is at the head of the secession movement with some Austin residents opting for a counter petition to remain within the federal union. The "six flags over Texas" refers to flags that flew over the territory in its history since the Iberian emblem was hoisted when Spain came calling. The state is favored by Filipino immigrants, finding its wet gulf and dry southwest weather friendly, and recognizing an affinity for the residents of *Tejas* (a Caddo term for "friend") having been called once as *Nuevo Reino de Filipinas: La Provincia de Texas*.

We recall that a bunch of illegal volunteers (e.g., Davy Crockett) came in defense of the Alamo that supported a secessionist movement from Mexico. Its subsequent declaration of independence contributed to the first Spanish-American War. No matter. A relevant question that is being raised is whether it is fair for Texas to be treated in the same way as Vermont. Not an altogether impertinent question of governance. It begs the question of how to structure representational democracy as dramatically revealed in the result of the last election.

The popular vote was a split of 51 percent Obama against 49 percent Romney, a close enough tally that sent the media projecting a close contest. The electoral votes, however, were 332 Obama vs. 203 Romney. The popular vote on the congressional election is also very telling. The Democrats won it by a healthy margin, but the GOP won a majority of the seats. Smart gerrymandering of congressional districts made it possible, e.g., for four districts once evenly divided between the reds and the blues, to be redistricted so that one district become a surefire Blue, while the other three became predominantly Red.

First, we concede that Romney won White America in the last election. But White America lost the civil war a century earlier, though many states remain threatened and defensive over the diversity that has come to characterize the nation since.

White sheet-draped-and-hooded members of the KKK solemnly gathered in Charlotte, North Carolina last week to assert once more the perceived rights and prerogatives of America's Aryan race. The maturity of some Americans was heartening when metropolitan Charlotte's other Caucasians responded not in kind but with levity and humor. They sent in the clowns, a disruptive but nonviolent counter protest.

I came to the U.S. in 1965 and bought my first vinyl LP, called "In White America," which narrated the journey of the African-American from the southern plantation days to the '60s. The stirring MLK "I Have A Dream" civil rights march speech two years before was included, along with dramatic readings of historical narratives and recorded protest songs. We joined that voice in a march in Washington a month before it was silenced in Memphis.

I lived in Kentucky, Texas, and North Carolina, in places where White America craftily dominated. I got in trouble in the Blue Grass State when I commented that the ambience of the horse farms were more pleasant than the public schools. I attended a church-related university in a rich section of North Dallas where the John Birch Society prominently displayed their banner a block down my dorm. I had my first full-time job in a lily-white institution in Greensboro, NC, headquarters to the KKK, where two Tar Heels in the Piedmont who received my services insisted on calling me Mr. Smith rather than learn my Hispanic surname. In-kind, and in turn, I called them Billy and Bob Jones!

My LP album is long gone. But I can still recall the album's cover, the title on a papier-mâché background with a crack on the word "america" (all in small letters). That album pretty much set the tone of my relationship with the country's elite and its belligerent citizens ever since.

We were inside the Beltway when Bill Clinton came to D.C. He was white America's sax soul brother, as Elvis Presley's music was bleached Memphis tunes in the shadows. Now, interracial Obama comes with a white Kansas mother and a black Kenyan father, born in rainbow country Hawaii, exposed at a tender age to Mecca's call to prayer, and tempered in a familiar neighborhood of Chicago. The formula does not sit well with the milk, white bread, and steak-and-potato crowd!

His presidency opened with economic stimulus legislation. Obamacare, Wall Street reform, and consumer protection were divisive not on the offense but on the defense. Repeal of "don't ask, don't tell" led to support for same-sex marriage. He called off the Iraq War, upped Afghanistan exposure with a timeline. He supported the ouster of Kaddafi, and authorized the assassination of Osama bin laden.

Like him or not, the man has four more years to rally the U.S. in *Yes, We Can*. He will be dodging bullets, hopefully the unleaded ones!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Be proud, CNMI

CNMI, be proud of the election results that you voted for in November. It indicates a change is coming to the CNMI that will hopefully benefit our lives. Now, the most important thing that the people must do is to "hold our newly elected officials' feet to the fire" and insist that they follow through to grant the wishes of the people!

The people have gone over their "tipping point" and now they are seriously looking for an open government that is focused on solving the many problems we face. The power to run the government is shifting to the people. Our officials must listen to us and not only the "bosses" on Capital Hill. The people need to take an active role in their government; electing a new set of politicians is not the end, it is the beginning.

For example, I plan to attend the meetings of the 18th Legislature to see firsthand how my representatives are dealing with the issues. I was very disappointed in the 17th Legislature (including my 4th District reps). Their words in public were very different from what they did in private. For example: how many times must we vote on the issue of casinos? Why has the Retirement Fund failed? The impeachment vote went against all common sense! How could the governor make a $190-million agreement without the consent of the people; after all we must pay, like it or not! Change must happen in our government and the focus should be set by the people.

Bud White and I are making a searchable DVD for all the columns written by Ruth Tighe, called: "On My Mind." In the process of preparing for this DVD I have gone back and read many of the columns. I know that the opinions in the columns were Ruth's, but it became so obvious to me that our government at all levels took a turn for the worst several years ago. It really did not make any difference who wrote the columns. It was easy to learn and understand why we have failed: there are "too many chefs in the kitchen"; too much litigation; poor leadership at all levels; useless legislation that had no impact; no commitments to "make it happen"; wasted efforts that cost millions of dollars with zero results (CHC for an example); and no vision for the future. Who answered the simple question, "What should the CNMI become in the future and how?" There were attempts made to define a future, but no actionable plans were brought forth by the government. The people need to take over this task and lead.

The election results proved to me that we have good people living in the CNMI. People who are brave, smart, that understand and care about their homeland, and most importantly, they have open minds and want to improve the lives of their kids.

The hard work has just begun. The people must continue to demonstrate their demands that the politicians represent them. The money in the budget is not the government's; it belongs to the people. We must insist that it be spent well and not wasted.

Frank Stewart
Capital Hill, Saipan

The looming impeachment

Much has been said in the media, the special impeachment committee, and the community at large about the looming impeachment proceedings when the 18th CNMI House of Representative takes office. I am completely against the impeachment for very good reasons.

First, our form of government is three branched: executive, legislative, and judicial. Supposedly for checks and balances purpose. As a concerned citizen, this is not what I see happening. I have always believed that in government, if one of its branches make decisions that is contrary to any of the established laws, rules and regulations, administrative action should be taken to make the necessary corrective measure. This is, in my opinion, the check and balance procedure under our form of government. Our leaders must sit on one table and try to hash out the areas considered to be problematic and make the necessary correction so that the lives of citizen would continue without due hardship. And if, the governor ignores and continues to ignore the suggested corrective action, then *impeachment must proceed.*

Impeachment should be the last resort of action if nothing changes during the table discussion to hash out all the areas considered problematic. The Legislature should first take the initiative to help the governor set forth the correct procedures to follow in the power plant contract so as to make sure that all the established procurement procedures are followed. And if and only if the governor does not or do not want to adhere to the procedures recommended by the Legislature should impeachment take place. So sad that this do-nothing Legislature do not have time to meet with the governor to make the corrective effort before impeachment. I have no doubt that it was their last effort to cover their do-nothing-well-paid effort in the last two years.

Impeachment will not solve the economic, health, and Retirement Fund problems of the CNMI. In fact, instead of helping the CNMI, it adds more problems to the financial dilemma of the CNMI. If the Legislature's new majority is true to their campaign commitment to help protect the welfare of the public, then they should take a proactive approach to the dilemma facing the CNMI: economy, health and Retirement Fund! Impeachment will be very costly to our government to endure. We absolutely do not have the money to pay for the lawyers. Think about it. Power blackout is looming within the next five years. We must not wait for the power blackout problem to be here before we start looking for solutions. Now is the time to act.

Sid Kani
As Matuis, Saipan

Thanks for your support

My family and I want to take this opportunity to thank my supporters for their help and vote. I also want to offer my sincere congratulations at being re-elected to my counterpart, Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan. The people have spoken and I graciously and respectfully accept their decision.

I have learned a very valuable lesson about politics and, although I'm not in, I'm not out because I know I can do more to help the people of the CNMI.

Politics aside, I will be joining all of you who will be praying for Kilili's success in Congress and for the CNMI in the coming future. Thank you supporters and may God bless you and our Commonwealth.

Dr. Ignacia Tudela Demapan
Kagman I, Saipan

Complete results

I'm really disappointed that you did not publish a complete list of winners in the Nov. 6 elections. I had to strain my eyes in deciphering the winners and losers in the several articles that you published in today's newspaper. As a voter and a reader of your newspaper, I rely on you to give us readers all the relevant information. You must not presume that we, who are non-political, would stay up all night waiting for the results on television. We depend on you to give us the results.

Reynaldo O. Yana
via email

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

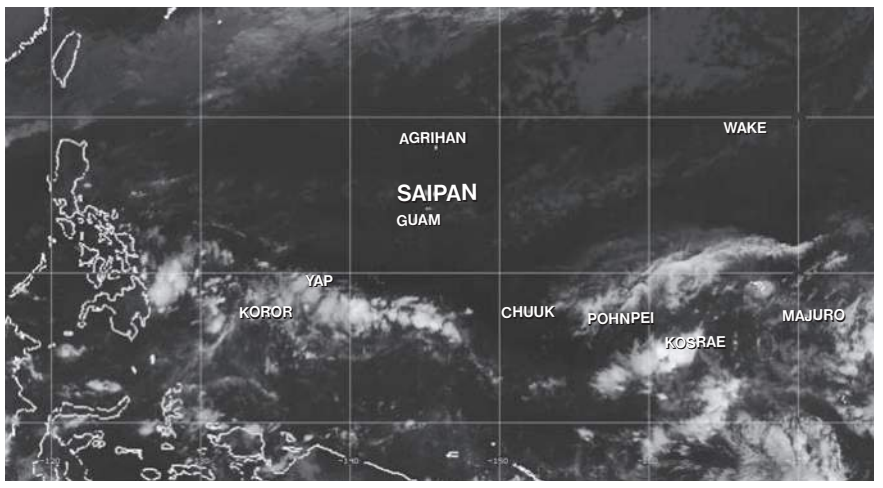
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼78
Palau	Showers	▲87	▼76
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲90	▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼76
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲87	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼54
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲50	▼29
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲79	▼74
Honolulu	Showers	▲82	▼72
London	Showers	▲55	▼48
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼51
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼79
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼61
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼61
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲51	▼38
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲57	▼48
Paris	Fog	▲54	▼45
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲57	▼40
Rome	Cloudy	▲63	▼51
Salem	Rain	▲52	▼47
San Francisco	Showers	▲66	▼59
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲47	▼31
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲58	▼46
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲55	▼42

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A nearly stationary front extends southwestward from 25N144E to beyond 130E at 20N. Extensive cloudiness and patchy showers are found along and up to 320 miles northwest of this boundary including Iwo To island. A near-equatorial trough runs northeastward from 3N130E through a circulation centered just south of Koror near 5N135E then turns southeastward to end at EQ142E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found primarily north of the trough and circulation over Koror and near Yap within 200 miles of a line from 10N130E to 6N140E to 8N145E. A cold front extends southwestward from 25N178E to east of Wake Island at 20N170E then continues as a shear line to end east of the Marianas at 13N148E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found northeast of Wake island near the cold front between 25N and 21N from 175E to 179E. Cloudiness and patchy showers are found along and up to 160 miles northwest of this boundary southwest of 19N170E. A surface trough stretches northeastward from EQ158E through a circulation centered south of Kosrae near 4N163E then passes over the Marshall Islands to end near 8N177E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring over Kosrae but south of Majuro within 150 miles of a line from 6N163E to 6N171E to 3N175E to 7N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

6:32 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
1:45 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
7:55 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:21 AM	5:44 PM
Wednesday	6:22 AM	5:44 PM
Thursday	6:22 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:23 AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:23 AM	5:44 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:59 AM	
Wednesday	12:42 PM	12:04 AM
Thursday	1:22 PM	12:56 AM
Friday	2:01 PM	1:46 AM
Saturday	2:40 PM	2:35 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOV. 15, 2012

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:40am	5:30am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
UA5074	11:10am	12:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU7108	2:50am	5:55am	1, 3, 5

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL297	4:25pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN (SPN)-PUSAN (BUS)

UZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)

VLK1734	2:00am	8:15am	5 every other week

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:20pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	10:30pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:20pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:05am	7:55am	Daily
UA5073	9:50am	10:40am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU7107	6:30pm	1:50am+1	2, 4, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

PUSAN (BUS)-SAIPAN (SPN)

OZ607	9:35pm	2:25am+1	3, 6

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN

VLK1733	8:00pm	12:05am+1	4 every other week

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ702/605	12:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	7 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:55am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:59pm	7:55am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ724/605	1:50pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ724/605	1:50pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5073	11:25pm	10:40am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

Twinkies likely to survive sale of Hostess

DETROIT (AP)—Twinkie lovers, relax.

The tasty cream-filled golden spongecakes are likely to survive, even though their maker will be sold in bankruptcy court.

Hostess Brands Inc., baker of Wonder Bread as well as Twinkies, Ding Dongs and Ho Ho's, will be in a New York bankruptcy courtroom Monday to start the process of selling itself.

The company, weighed down by debt, management turmoil, rising labor costs and the changing tastes of America, decided on Friday that it no longer could make it through a conventional Chapter 11 bankruptcy restructuring. Instead, it's asking the court for permission to sell assets and go out of business.

But with high brand recognition and $2.5 billion in revenue per year, other companies are interested in bidding for at least pieces of Hostess. Twinkies alone have brought in $68 million in revenue so far this year, which would look good to another snack-maker.

"There's a huge amount of goodwill with the commercial brand name," said John Pottow, a University of Michigan Law School professor who specializes in bankruptcy. "It's quite conceivable that they can sell the name and recipe for Twinkies to a company that wants to make them."

Hostess has said it's received inquiries about buying parts of the company. But spokesman Lance Ignon would not comment on analysts' reports that Thomasville, Ga.-based Flowers Foods Inc. and private equity food investment firm Metropoulos & Co. are likely suitors. Metropoulos owns Pabst Brewing Co., while Flowers Foods makes Nature's Own bread, Tastykake treats and other baked goods. Messages were left for spokesmen for both companies on Sunday.

"We think there's a lot of value in the brands, and we'll certainly be trying to maximize value, both of the brands and the physical assets," Ignon said Sunday. He said it's possible some of Hostess' bakeries will never return to operation because the industry has too much bakery capacity.

Little will be decided at Monday afternoon's hearing before Bankruptcy Judge Robert Drain, Pottow said. The judge eventually will appoint a company that specializes in liquidation to sell the assets, and the sale probably will take six months to a year to complete, Pottow said.

Irving, Texas-based Hostess filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in January for the second time in less than a decade. Its predecessor company, Interstate Bakeries, sought bankruptcy protection in 2004 and changed its name to Hostess after emerging in 2009.

The company said it was saddled with costs related to its unionized workforce. The company had been contributing $100 million a year in pension costs for workers; the new contract offer would've slashed that to $25 million a year, in addition to wage cuts and a 17 percent reduction in health benefits.

Management missteps were another problem. Hostess came under fire this spring after it was revealed that nearly a dozen executives received pay hikes of up to 80 percent last year even as the company was struggling.

Then last week thousands of members of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union went on strike after rejecting the company's latest contract offer. The bakers union represents about 30 percent of the company's workforce.

A look at Hostess brands

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hostess Brands Inc. will be in a New York bankruptcy courtroom Monday to start the process of selling itself after failing to emerge from its second Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing in less than a decade. The company says buyers have already expressed interest in some of its brands, meaning they could find a second life.

DESSERTS
- CupCakes
- Ding Dongs
- Donettes
- Funny Bones
- Ho Ho's
- Sno Balls
- Twinkies
- Yodels

BREAD
- Beefsteak
- Butternut
- Home Pride
- Merita
- Nature's Pride
- Wonder

Hostess closes its bakeries

Hostess Brands Inc. filed with the federal bankruptcy court Nov. 16, seeking permission to close its factories and sell off all its assets. The move comes a week after one of the company's largest unions began a nationwide strike. Analysts say some individual brands may be bought by other companies.

History

1930 Interstate Bakery Corp. founded in Kansas City, Mo., by Ralph Nafziger

1937 Merger with Chicago bakery Schulze Baking Co.

1943 Acquires Supreme Baking Co., in Los Angeles

1950s, 60s Acquisitions of many smaller baking companies around country

1969 Name change to Interstate Brands

1987 Company goes private

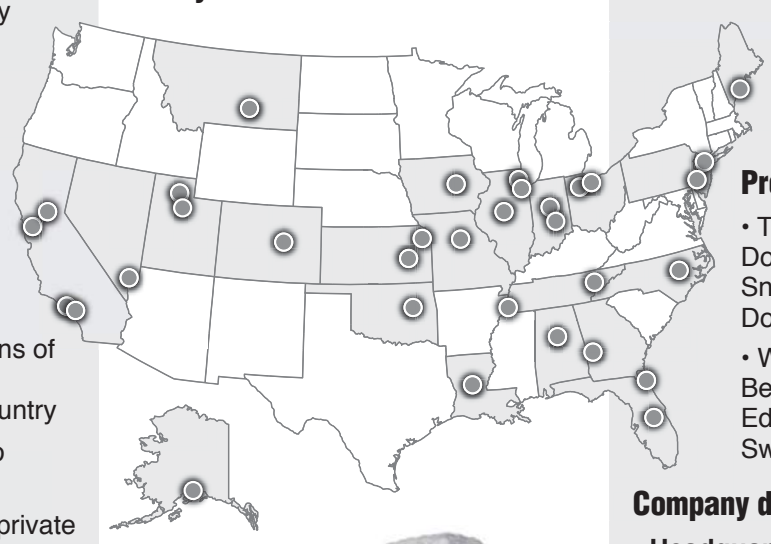
1991 Becomes public again

1995 Merger with Continental Baking

2004 Bankruptcy process

2012 Liquidation begins

Thirty-three bakeries to be closed



Brands Hostess, Wonder Bread, Nature's Pride, Dolly Madison, Butternut Bread, Drake's

Products
- Twinkies, Ding Dongs, Ho Ho's, Sno Balls, Zingers, Donettes
- Wonder Bread, Beefsteak Bread, Eddy's, Sweetheart

Company details
- **Headquarters** Irving, Texas
- **Retail sites** 565 outlets
- **Employees** 18,500

Source: Hostess, Yahoo Finance
Graphic: Robert Dorrell

© 2012 MCT

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Gas prices drop 7 cents over past 2 weeks

CAMARILLO, Calif. (AP)—The average U.S. price of a gallon of gasoline has dropped 7 cents over the past two weeks. That's according to the Lundberg Survey of fuel prices, released Sunday, which puts the price of a gallon of regular at $3.47. Midgrade costs an average of $3.65 a gallon, and premium is $3.78. Diesel dipped 4 cents to $4.04 a gallon. Of the cities surveyed in the lower 48 states, Memphis, Tenn., has the nation's lowest average price for gas at $3.04. Long Island, N.Y., has the highest at $4.18. In California, the lowest average price was $3.59 in Sacramento and the highest was $3.83 in Bakersfield. The average statewide for a gallon of regular was $3.77, down 21 cents.

Pelosi says no budget deal without tax rate hikes

WASHINGTON (AP)—House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi says she's hopeful lawmakers can come to a deal to avoid a year-end "fiscal cliff" but any agreement has to include tax rate increases for the wealthy. She tells ABC's "This Week" that she can't accept a deal that caps deductions and closes some loopholes but does not alter current tax rates for the wealthy. The California Democrat says "just to close loopholes is far too little money" and other ideas have to be considered. Republicans have suggested they are open to finding more revenues. Lawmakers are facing expiration of the George W. Bush-era tax deductions and across-the-board spending cuts that automatically hit in January—the result of Congress' failure to reach a deficit-cutting deal last year.

Jaguar to build factory in China in joint venture

LONDON (AP)—A new joint venture will for the first time see Jaguars and Land Rovers built in China. The British luxury car company said Sunday that a deal has been made with the Chery Automobile Company to build the cars at a new factory to be built near Shanghai. The company says it is a 1 billion pound ($1.6 billion) joint venture. The factory will also produce joint-branded cars targeting the Chinese market. The company says the Chinese government has approved the new partnership.

ECB's Asmussen says Greece to need aid beyond 2014

BERLIN (AP)—Greece will need yet more international financial assistance beyond the agreed bailout programs through 2014, a European Central Bank board member said Sunday.

The government in Athens probably won't be able to return to finance its debt on financial markets in 2015 and 2016, thus requiring another assistance program, Joerg Asmussen told German public broadcaster ZDF.

Many of Greece's partners in the 17-nation eurozone loathe granting Greece yet more funds and more long-term assistance, not least Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel who is heading into an election year.

International creditors have kept debt-ridden Greece afloat since 2010 and have pledged rescue loans worth (EURO)240 billion ($306 billion) through 2014 because the country could no longer refinance its debt on markets. Investors demanded prohibitive interest rates from Greece as they feared the country might default on its debt.

But a much deeper than expected recession and delays in implementing austerity measures and reforms have created a new budget shortfall of some (EURO)30 billion under the current bailout program.

The finance ministers of Greece's eurozone partners, the European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund will meet on Tuesday to decide how to plug that hole.

"Next week we should settle the financing for the years 2013 and 2014, but you have to be honest and say that we don't really expect the country to have access to markets in 2015 and 2016. That means a follow-up program would be necessary," Asmussen told ZDF.

The creditors initially hoped Greece's debt burden could be reduced to a more sustainable level of 120 percent of its gross domestic product by 2020. But Greece's debt is now forecast to hit 190 percent of GDP next year, leading creditors to propose granting the country two more years to meet the target.

Greece is heading into a sixth consecutive year of recession, which will further deteriorate its debt position measured relative to its economic output. The jobless rate hovers around 25 percent, and youth unemployment has hit 50 percent.

The IMF and many economists, however, fret that an extension and fresh loans alone still won't be enough and that Greece's eurozone creditors might have to forgive some of their debt.

"We cannot help the country with loans alone," Asmussen insisted. "That closes the financing gap but at the same time increases the country's debt."

Germany's influential central bank chief Jens Weidmann, who also sits on the ECB's governing council, said Friday that Greece will need another debt write-off, a so-called haircut, at the end of a long reform path to make its debt sustainable again.

Nation

In unusual CIA case, FBI detoured from usual path

WASHINGTON (AP)—The way the FBI responded to Jill Kelley's complaint about receiving harassing emails, which ultimately unraveled or scarred the careers of ex-CIA Director David Petraeus and Marine Gen. John Allen, is the exception, not the rule.

The FBI commonly declines to pursue cyberstalking cases without compelling evidence of serious or imminent harm to an individual, victims of online harassment, advocacy groups and computer crime experts told The Associated Press.

But in the sensational episode that uncovered the spy chief's adulterous affair, the FBI's cyberdivision devoted months of tedious investigative work to uncover who had sent insulting and anonymous messages about Kelley, the Florida socialite who was friendly with Petraeus and Allen—and friends with a veteran FBI counterterrorism agent in Tampa.

The bureau probably would have ignored Kelley's complaint had it not been for information in the emails that indicated the sender was aware of the travel schedules of Petraeus and Allen, the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan. Instead, the FBI considered this from the earliest stages to be an exceptional case, and one so sensitive that FBI Director Robert Mueller and Attorney General Eric Holder were kept notified of its progress.

How the FBI's investigation unfolded—especially its decision not to alert the White House, the director of national intelligence or Congress about its discovery of Petraeus's sexual affair until Election Day—is under scrutiny, especially because there is no indication so far that any criminal charges will be filed.

Mueller and his deputy, Sean Joyce, have met privately with lawmakers to defend how the inquiry was handled. Holder said on Thursday that law enforcement officials did not inform the president and Congress about the probe because it did not uncover any threat to national security.

President Barack Obama said he was withholding judgment until he learns more. "You know, we don't have all the information yet," Obama said at a White House news conference. "But I want to say that I have a lot of confidence generally in the FBI." He added that it was "best right now for us to just see how this whole process is unfolding."

The FBI's cybersquads, like the one in Tampa that investigated the Petraeus case, are primarily focused on blocking criminals and terrorists from using the Internet to threaten national security or steal valuable information stored in government and corporate computers.

An AP review of court records found only nine cases over the past two years that identified cyberstalking or cyberharassment as the underlying crime in federal criminal complaints. In one recent case, a Michigan man was charged with cyberstalking after using the Internet and text messages to contact female victims, many of them minors, in an effort to obtain pornographic pictures. In another case, the FBI arrested a man for sending emails threatening to kill Los Angeles model Kourtney Reppert and her family.

"They turn people away all the time on the grounds that (cyberstalking) is a civil matter, not a criminal one," said Danielle Citron, a professor at the University of Maryland School of Law who studies cyberharassment issues.

A tangled web

Key figures in the widening scandal that has ensnared two four-star generals:

Gen. David Petraeus (ret.)
Resigned as CIA director

Petraeus was commander and **Allen** deputy commander of U.S. Central Command at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Fla., and they knew **Kelley** through parties she hosted for military brass

1. **Petraeus** and **Broadwell** had extramarital affair after getting to know each other while she was researching his biography

Paula Broadwell
Wrote Petraeus' biography

2. **Broadwell,** apparently jealous of **Kelley's** closeness to **Petraeus**, anonymously sent her harassing emails

Jill Kelley
'Social liaison' for MacDill Air Force Base

4. **Allen** is being investigated for "flirtatious" emails traded with **Kelley**

Gen. John Allen
Commander of NATO forces in Afghanistan

Frederick Humphries II
FBI special agent

3. **Kelley** complained about harassing emails to **Humphries** who once sent her shirtless photos of himself; he learns of **Petraeus** and **Broadwell** affair

Others involved

Natalie Khawam
Kelley's twin; socialized with both generals; **Petraeus** and **Allen** wrote letters on her behalf in child custody battle

Rep. Dave Reichert
Humphries voiced concern of possible national security breach

Rep. Eric Cantor
After getting tip reports allegations to FBI director

Source: AP, Reuters, MCT Photo Service Graphic: San Jose Mercury News © 2012 MCT

Congress to investigate Benghazi 'talking points'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Lawmakers said Sunday they want to know who had a hand in creating the Obama administration's now-discredited "talking points" about the Sept. 11 attack on a U.S. diplomatic post in Benghazi, Libya, and why a final draft omitted the CIA's early conclusion that terrorists were involved.

The answers could explain why President Barack Obama and top aides, including U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice, described the attack for days afterward as a protest against an anti-Islam video that spontaneously turned violent and why they played down any potential link to al-Qaida, despite evidence to the contrary.

Administration officials have defended the portrayal of the attack as relying on the best information available at the time that didn't compromise classified intelligence. Democrats say CIA and other intelligence officials signed off on the final talking points.

Republicans have alleged a Watergate-like cover up, accusing White House aides of hiding the terrorism link in the run-up to the Nov. 6 presidential election so voters wouldn't question Obama's claim that al-Qaida's power had diminished.

"I know the narrative was wrong and the intelligence was right. ... We're going to get to the bottom of how that happened," said Rep. Mike Rogers, R-Mich., chairman of the House Intelligence Committee.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, who heads the Senate Intelligence Committee, said she doesn't believe the White House altered the document for political reasons. But she said she has lingering concerns about how the talking points were created when it was clear early on that the military-style assault wasn't a simple protest gone awry.

Battle over coastal Xmas display goes to LA court

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Damon Vix didn't have to go to court to push Christmas out of the city of Santa Monica. He just joined the festivities.

The atheist's anti-God message alongside a life-sized nativity display in a park overlooking the beach ignited a debate that burned brighter than any Christmas candle.

Santa Monica officials snuffed the city's holiday tradition this year rather than referee the religious rumble, prompting churches that have set up a 14-scene Christian diorama for decades to sue over freedom of speech violations. Their attorney will ask a federal judge Monday to resurrect the depiction of Jesus' birth, while the city aims to eject the case.

"It's a sad, sad commentary on the attitudes of the day that a nearly 60-year-old Christmas tradition is now having to hunt for a home, something like our savior had to hunt for a place to be born because the world was not interested," said Hunter Jameson, head of the nonprofit Santa Monica Nativity Scene Committee that is suing.

Missing from the courtroom drama will be Vix and his fellow atheists, who are not parties to the case. Their role outside court highlights a tactical shift as atheists evolve into a vocal minority eager to get their nonbeliefs into the public square as never before.

National atheist groups earlier this year took out full-page newspaper ads and hundreds of TV spots in response to the Catholic bishops' activism around women's health care issues and are gearing up to battle for their own space alongside public Christmas displays in small towns across America this season.

"In recent years, the tactic of many in the atheist community has been, if you can't beat them, join them," said Charles Haynes, a senior scholar at the First Amendment Center and director of the Newseum's Religious Freedom Education Project in Washington. "If these church groups insist that these public spaces are going to be dominated by a Christian message, we'll just get in the game—and that changes everything."

ACROSS THE NATION

Co. looks for worker after oil rig fire in Gulf

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The owner of an oil platform that caught fire after an explosion in the Gulf of Mexico last week said Sunday that it has expanded its search for a missing worker, and doctors said one of four men burned in the blaze is improving and is now in fair condition. Two remained in critical condition and one in serious condition, doctors said. Three dive boats are now working around the burned platform and Plaquemines Parish sheriff's deputies are checking beaches, Black Elk Energy of Houston said in a statement emailed Sunday evening. It said all helicopter companies flying in the area have been asked to keep an eye out, and a search-and-rescue dog will be brought to the platform Monday. The body of a second missing worker was found Saturday and turned over to the Jefferson Parish coroner, added the company, which said it is cooperating with investigators.

Public nudity ban eyed in fed-up San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—San Francisco may be getting ready to shed its image as a city where anything goes, including clothing. City lawmakers are scheduled to vote Tuesday on an ordinance that would prohibit nudity in most public places, a blanket ban that represents an escalation of a two-year tiff between a devoted group of men who strut their stuff through the city's famously gay Castro District and the supervisor who represents the area. Supervisor Scott Wiener's proposal would make it illegal for a person over the age of 5 to "expose his or her genitals, perineum or anal region on any public street, sidewalk, street median, parklet or plaza" or while using public transit. A first offense would carry a maximum penalty of a $100 fine, but prosecutors would have authority to charge a third violation as a misdemeanor punishable by up to a $500 fine and a year in jail. Exemptions would be made for participants at permitted street fairs and parades, such as the city's annual gay pride event and the Folsom Street Fair, which celebrates sadomasochism and other sexual subcultures.

Asia

Obama opens landmark visit to Myanmar

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Launching a landmark visit to long shunned Myanmar, President Barack Obama said Monday he comes to "extend the hand of friendship" to a nation moving from persecution to peace. But his praise and personal attention came with an admonition to those in charge: The work of ensuring and protecting freedoms has just begun.

On an overcast and steamy day, Obama touched down Monday morning, becoming the first U.S. president to visit the Asian nation also known as Burma. Tens of thousands of people in the long repressed country packed the streets to see his motorcade speed through the city. Many of them waved American flags and took photos with their smartphones.

After meeting with President Thein Sein, who has orchestrated much of his country's transition to democracy, Obama said the reforms "in Myanmar" could unleash "the incredible potential of this beautiful country."

Obama's language alone was significant. The United States still officially refers to the country as Burma, after the former ruling junta summarily changed the name years ago to Myanmar. But U.S. officials—and now Obama—have been less rigid about using the old name as relations change.

Obama will also meeting with longtime Myanmar democracy activist Aung San Suu Kyi in the home where she spent years under house arrest, a gated compound with a lawn ringed by roses.

Obama will close with a speech at the University of Yangon, praising the country's progress toward democracy but urge further reforms.

"Instead of being repressed, the right of people to assemble together must now be fully respected," the president said in speech excerpts released by the White House. "Instead of being stifled, the veil of media censorship must continue to be lifted. As you take these steps, you can draw on your progress."

Obama's visit to Myanmar was to last just six hours, but it carries significant symbolism, reflecting a remarkable turnaround in the countries' relationship.

Obama has rewarded Myanmar's rapid adoption of democratic reforms by lifting some economic penalties. The president has appointed a permanent ambassador to the country, and pledged greater investment if Myanmar continues to progress following a half-century of military rule.

In his speech, Obama recalls a promise he made upon taking office—that the United States would extend a hand if those nations that ruled in fear unclenched their fists.

"Today, I have come to keep my promise, and extend the hand of friendship," he said. "The flickers of progress that we have seen must not be extinguished. They must become a shining North Star for all this nation's people."

Some human rights groups say Myanmar's government, which continues to hold hundreds of political prisoners and is struggling to contain ethnic violence, hasn't done enough to earn a personal visit from Obama. The president said from Thailand on Sunday that his visit is not an endorsement of the government in Myanmar, but an acknowledgment that dramatic progress is underway and it deserves a global spotlight.

Obama came down the steps of Air Force One next to Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, in recognition of their final foreign trip together. Clinton is leaving the job soon.

The president's stop came between visits to Thailand and Cambodia. His Asia tour also marks his formal return to the world stage after months mired in a bruising re-election campaign. For his first postelection trip, he tellingly settled on Asia, a region he has deemed the region as crucial to U.S. prosperity and security.

AP

People holding a poster with portraits of U.S. President Barack Obama, left, Myanmar President Thein Sein, center, and Myanmar opposition leader and Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi as they wait to welcome the arrival of U.S. President Barack Obama at Yangon International Airport Monday, Nov. 19, 2012, in Yangon, Myanmar.

Obama goes to Southeast Asia

President Barack Obama goes on a three-nation trip during which he will attend the Southeast Asia (ASEAN) Summit. He will be the first U.S. president to visit Myanmar (Burma).

1. Sun., Nov. 18 Arrives in Bangkok, Thailand; audience with King Rama IX; meets with Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra; press conference

2. Mon., Nov. 19 Arrives in Rangoon, Myanmar; meets with President Thein Sein, Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi; departs for Phnom Penh, Cambodia; attends ASEAN Summit

3. Tues., Nov. 20 Meets with Asian leaders; attends ASEAN Summit; returns to U.S.

© 2012 MCT
Source: White House, ESRI
Graphic: Judy Treible

ASIA BRIEFS

China's Xi warns party of corruption scourge

BEIJING (AP)—China's incoming president, Xi Jinping, has warned Communist Party officials about the need to fight corruption or risk ruining the country. The official Xinhua News Agency reported details Monday of a speech Xi gave over the weekend to the new 25-member Politburo in which he said the party must be vigilant against corruption. Xi said that in recent years, countries where corruption prompted major public anger have experienced social unrest and regime collapse. Xi said: "The large number of facts tells us that if the problem of corruption becomes increasingly severe, it will lead to the ruin of the party and the country!"

China: Gang made, sold almost 1M fake luxury bags

BEIJING (AP)—Police in China have arrested 73 people suspected of manufacturing and selling almost 1 million fake luxury bags. The Ministry of Public Security says police seized more than 20,000 fake Louis Vuitton, Hermes and Coach bags and closed 37 sites where the forgery ring made or sold the bags. Police say the ring sold more than 960,000 bags and exported many to the United States and Middle East. The ministry said Sunday that police in southern Guangdong province uncovered the forgery ring in January and that Chinese agents worked with U.S. customs and immigration officials in the case. It said authorities seized assets worth 5 billion yuan ($800 million), including unsold counterfeit goods, production equipment and bank accounts.

SE Asia to ask China to start talks over islands

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—Southeast Asian leaders decided to ask China to start formal talks "as soon as possible" on crafting a legally binding accord aimed at preventing violence over disputed South China Sea territories.

Leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations made the decision Sunday during their annual summit in the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh, ASEAN Secretary-General Surin Pitsuwan said.

The South China Sea territorial disputes, which many fear could spark Asia's next war, have overshadowed discussions at the summit, where the top agenda items included human rights and expanding an Asian free-trade area.

Four countries in the 10-member ASEAN—Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam—have been locked in long-unresolved territorial rifts with China and Taiwan in the resource-rich waters, where a bulk of the world's oil and cargo passes. Since Chinese and Vietnamese naval forces engaged in deadly clashes in the region in the 1970s, the disputes have settled into an uneasy standoff.

But fresh territorial spats involving China, Vietnam and the Philippines starting last year have set off calls for ASEAN and China to turn a nonaggression accord they signed in 2002 to a stronger, legally-binding "code of conduct" aimed at discouraging aggressive acts that could lead to dangerous confrontations or accidental clashes in the busy region.

ASEAN member countries have submitted features they each want to see in such an accord and were now ready to sit as a bloc to discuss with China how the agreement could be drafted. The crucial talks could start immediately, even right after the Cambodia summit, according to Surin.

Thousands of Chinese protest, smash police cars

BEIJING (AP)—Thousands of residents protested in a southeastern Chinese city after a traffic accident, smashing police cars and overturning three police vans, police and residents said.

The reason for the protest in Fuan city in Fujian province was unclear. Police said it was instigated by "a handful of lawless people." One resident said people became angry because police and paramedics took nearly an hour to arrive to help the injured, while a Hong Kong-based human rights group said it was to do with corruption.

But such protests have become increasingly common in China, and Saturday's violence is another reminder that the country's new leadership has to deal with underlying social discontent that often boils over. People are fed up with corruption and high-handed officialdom, pensions that have not kept pace with inflation, and families being forced from their homes to make way for developments.

Residents said police were stopping cars and checking people for driving after drinking on Saturday evening when the accident happened on a main road in Fuan.

Wanting to avoid being tested, a driver in a sedan accelerated away and police started chasing the car, said a resident, who would give only his surname, Lin. About three motorcycles were hit during the chase, said Lin, adding he wasn't sure who hit them.

World

US, Britain warn of risks of Israeli ground war

BANGKOK (AP)—The U.S. and Britain on Sunday warned about the risks of Israel expanding its air assault on the Gaza Strip into a ground war, while vigorously defending the Jewish state's right to protect itself against rocket attacks.

The remarks by President Barack Obama and Britain Foreign Secretary William Hague were part of a diplomatic balancing act by the West as it desperately seeks an end to the escalating violence without alienating its closest ally in the region.

"Israel has every right to expect that it does not have missiles fired into its territory," President Barack Obama said at a news conference in Bangkok at the start of a three-nation visit to Asia.

"If that can be accomplished without a ramping up of military activity in Gaza, that's preferable," Obama said. "It's not just preferable for the people of Gaza. It's also preferable for Israelis, because if Israeli troops are in Gaza, they're much more at risk of incurring fatalities or being wounded."

■ ■ ■

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—The Palestinian civilian death toll mounts as Israel ferociously pursues Gaza Strip militants who are menacing nearly half of Israel's population with rocket fire.

Early on Monday, an airstrike leveled two houses belonging to a single family, killing two children and two adults and injuring 42 people, said Gaza heath official Ashraf al-Kidra. Rescue workers were frantically searching for 12 to 15 people under the rubble.

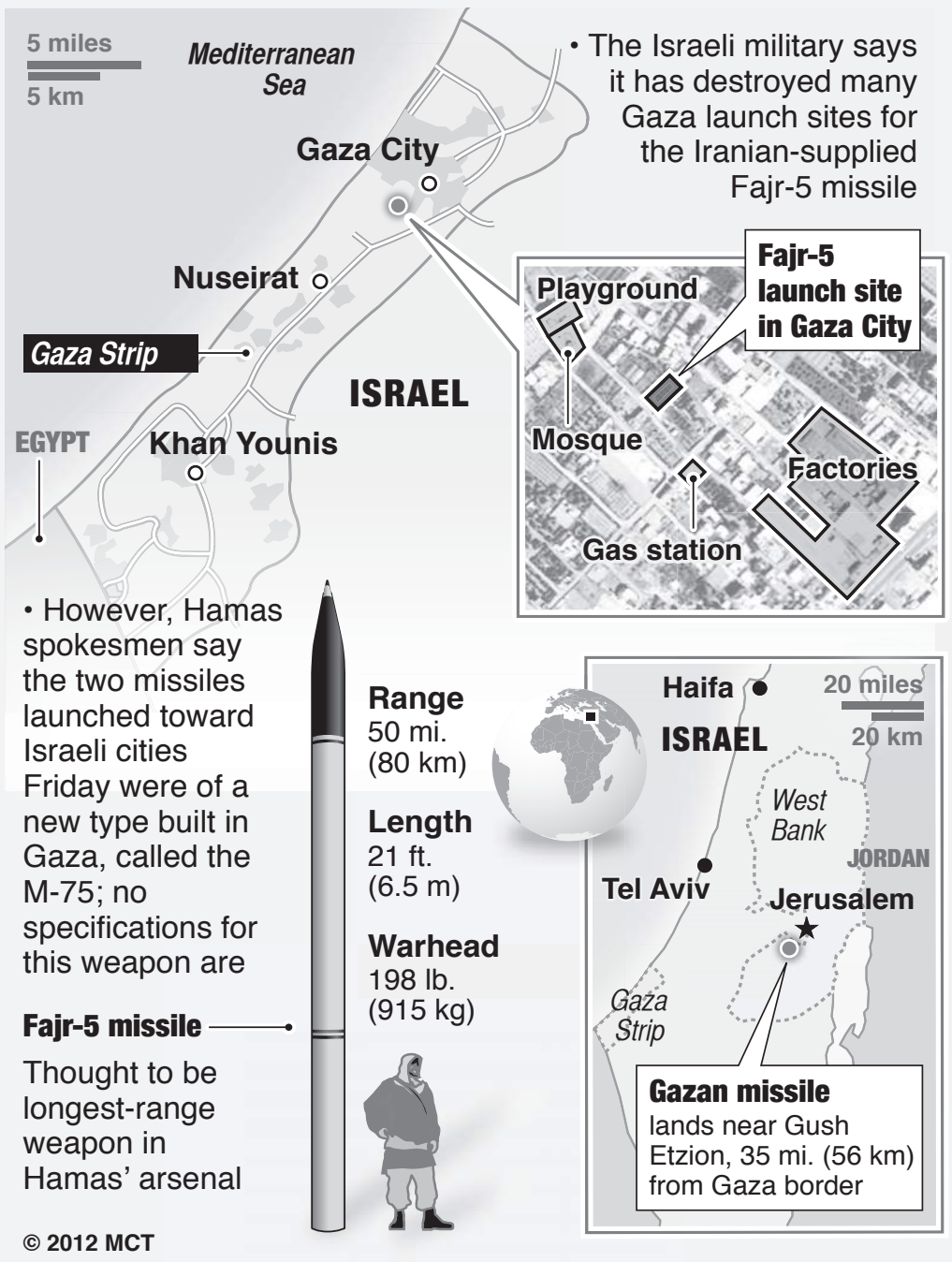
Shortly after, Israeli aircraft bombarded the ruins of the former national security compound in Gaza City. Al-Kidra says flying shrapnel killed one child and wounded others living nearby.

The rising toll was likely to intensify pressure on Israel to end the fighting. Hundreds of civilian casualties in an Israeli offensive in Gaza four years ago led to fierce international condemnation of Israel.

■ ■ ■

Missile warfare in Mideast

Israel positioned armored vehicles near its border with the Gaza Strip Friday. Spokesmen for Hamas, which governs Gaza, said Israel's military strikes have killed 28 Gaza residents, 18 of them civilians. Three Israelis died in a missile attack Thursday.



© 2012 MCT

Source: BBC, Israeli Defense Forces, AP, Global Security Graphic: Robert Dorrell

The president spoke shortly before an Israeli airstrike leveled a home in a residential neighborhood. Palestinian medical officials said at least 11 civilians, mostly women and children, were killed. The attack was the single deadliest incident of the 5-day-old Israeli operation.

The Israeli military said the target was a top rocket mastermind of the Islamic Jihad militant group. The claim could not be immediately verified, and the attack raised speculation that Israel could face increased international pressure if the civilian death toll continued to rise.

Hague said Hamas, Gaza's militant rulers, "bears principal responsibility" for initiating the violence and must stop all rocket attacks on Israel. But Hague also made clear the diplomatic risks of an Israeli escalation.

"A ground invasion is much more difficult for the international community to sympathize with or support, including the United Kingdom," he said.

Hamas links truce to end of Gaza border blockade

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Gaza's Hamas rulers are aiming high in the conditions they place on stopping rocket fire into Israel in indirect cease-fire talks launched this weekend. Emboldened by Arab support and confident in their arsenal, the Islamists say calm can only come if Israel opens the gates of the tiny, closed-off territory.

The question is how far Hamas will go to reach that long-sought goal, which Israel opposes out of fear of an influx of weapons to Gaza militants.

For now, public opinion in Gaza appears to support continued rocket attacks on Israel. However, Israeli aircraft have already struck hundreds of Hamas-linked targets in Gaza and Israel is threatening to escalate its military offensive. On Sunday, a new tactic of bombing the homes of Hamas operatives claimed the lives of at least nine children.

The indirect contacts between Israel and Hamas began Sunday, the fifth day of Israel's massive bombing campaign meant to halt more than a decade of intermittent Gaza rocket attacks on Israel.

An Israeli envoy was whisked from the tarmac at Cairo's international airport to talks with senior Egyptian security officials. The top Hamas leader in exile Khaled Mashaal held talks with Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi, who also spoke by phone with the Hamas prime minister in Gaza, Ismail Haniyeh.

Hamas' demands, as presented by Mashaal, include open borders for Gaza and international guarantees that Israel will halt all attacks on Gaza, including targeted killings of the movement's leaders. The assassination of Hamas' military chief last week after days of smaller exchanges between the two sides marked the start of the Israeli offensive, the most intense since a three-week-long war four years ago.

The Islamists view the current round of fighting as an opportunity to pry open the borders of Gaza, which slammed shut in 2007, after Hamas wrested control of the territory from its political rival, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. In response to the takeover, Israel and Egypt—then under Morsi's pro-Western predecessor Hosni Mubarak—sealed off Gaza to disrupt Hamas rule.

"We will not accept a cease-fire until the occupation (Israel) meets our conditions," said Izzat Rishaq, a senior Hamas official who is involved in the cease-fire efforts in Cairo.

Free movement of people and goods in and out of Gaza is seen as vital for Hamas' continued control of Gaza.

WORLD BRIEFS

Rebels in Congo reach door of Goma

GOMA, Congo (AP)—A rebel group believed to be backed by Rwanda advanced to within two miles (three kilometers) of Goma, a crucial provincial capital in eastern Congo, marking the first time that rebels have come this close since 2008. Congolese army spokesman Col. Olivier Hamuli said the fighting has been going on since 6 a.m. Sunday and the front line has moved to just a few miles (kilometers) outside the city. After more than nine hours of violent clashes, the two sides took a break just after 3 p.m., with M23 rebels establishing a checkpoint just 100 meters (yards) away from one held by the military in the village of Munigi, exactly 1.8 miles (three kilometers) outside the Goma city line. M23 spokesman Col. Vianney Kazarama initially said the rebels would spend the night in Goma. In the afternoon after the fighting stopped, he said, "We can take Goma easily now, we have pushed the Congolese army back over 10 kilometers (six miles) in one day."

Pro- and anti-gay protesters clash in Paris

PARIS (AP)—The controversial Ukrainian group Femen, whose topless members stage pranks to support gay rights, have taunted a march in Paris by Catholics who oppose France's draft law to legalize gay marriage. The Catholic group Civitas organized Sunday's march by several thousand people carrying pro-family banners. Several Femen activists turned up topless, chanted "in gay we trust" and sprayed white powder from bottles. That prompted several anti-gay marriage protesters to hit the Femen members and push them to the ground. On Saturday several thousand people took to the streets in cities across France to protest the draft law, which could see marriage and adoption legalized for homosexual couples early next year.

UN Security Council debates the spread of piracy

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Centuries after piracy was recognized as the first international crime against humanity, its spread around the world has prompted the U.N. Security Council's first debate Monday on piracy's rise as a threat to world peace and security.

In the past, the council has focused on various regional outbreaks of the scourge. But piracy has been metastasizing worldwide with hotspots off Somalia, in the Gulf of Guinea off West Africa and in Southeast Asia.

Monday's Security Council debate was called by the council's president, Indian Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, representing a country that has many sailors held hostage by modern pirates. Seven percent of all maritime workers are Indian nationals.

The Kuala Lumpur-based International Maritime Bureau, which tracks pirate attacks, reported 252 attacks worldwide for the year as of late October. Nine ships were being held for ransom off Somalia at that time with 154 hostages.

Anti-piracy enforcement has also moved into land raids against the villages and ports that harbor pirates in Somalia, at the request of the Somalian government. The council authorized that extension of enforcement power in 2008 and had renewed it,

More than 20 countries navies have captured hundreds of pirates off Somalia, leading to problem over what to do with the prisoners. Some have simply been freed on the Somali coast; others have been taken to Kenya for prosecution under agreement with the country and the European Union and United States. Kenya has limited resourced to deal with the case load, however.

The Netherlands proposed creation of a regional U.N. piracy tribunal several years ago to take the burden until Somalia's government is functional enough to take over. But the idea has been dormant due to lack of Security Council interest.

Focus

Southern Israel residents scared but determined

By ARON HELLER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEERSHEBA, Israel (AP)—After days of incessant rocket fire, the largest city in southern Israel has been turned into a ghost town. Schools are closed, stores are shuttered and normally bustling streets are empty.

Aside from emergency errands, residents avoid the outdoors and hunker down in their homes around the clock. Yet they still insist the military should carry on with its offensive in Gaza, to eliminate the rocket threat against them once and for all.

"We're not heroes. It's scary but we must carry on," 60-year-old Richard Atwan said Sunday, sipping a cup of coffee in the nearly vacant Negev Mall. "We're prepared to suffer now, so that it will be better in the future."

Moments earlier, a siren had sent him and a dozen others scampering to a bomb shelter for cover. Crowded inside, they gasped as a pair of explosions was heard.

Atwan's first foray from home since fighting began ended minutes later when his phone rang. "It's my son," he said. "The rocket landed near our house and he's coming to get me."

In just five days of fighting, Israel has been struck by more than 550 rockets. Gaza militants have stunned Israelis by reaching further into their homeland than ever before, including the first ever attacks on the country's two largest cities, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Three Israelis have been killed and more than 60 injured.

Israel has carried out more than 1,000 strikes against militant sites in Gaza, targeting rocket launchers, weapons depots, and the homes and offices of Hamas leaders. The attacks have killed 70 Palestinians, including 36 civilians, according to Gaza health officials.

The vast majority of the Palestinian strikes on Israel have been in the south, where 1 million residents have faced the danger for more than a decade. The frequent attacks have caused occasional casualties and constant stress. Parents say their children have been traumatized by the sounds of sirens and explosions, while daily life and commerce has been disrupted.

Beersheba's nearly 200,000 residents live just 25 miles (40 kilometers) from Gaza.

Four years ago, they were hit with some 40 rockets in a 3-week war between Israel and Hamas militants. On Saturday alone they were targeted by nearly as many. Thanks to Israel's "Iron Dome" missile defense system, which knocked down about half of the projectiles, and residents who followed instructions to stay in shelters at home, no one was harmed.

At his weekly Cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu praised the "restraint, determination and resilience" of the Israeli home front.

In his war room underneath City Hall, Mayor Ruvik Danilovich monitors the rocket strikes on interactive maps projected on giant plasma screens. More than 100 have already hit his city and he oversees a relief effort that includes military and police personnel tasked with soothing a jittery public. In just a matter of days, Danilovich has been transformed from an administrator into a general.

"We've got all the time in the world to wait this out. And it will go on until the other side understands that there can be no more fire toward our cities," he said. "We are victims of terror, of crimes against humanity. We are innocent people who have harmed no one and are being attacked for no reason."

The moment she heard Israel had launched its Gaza campaign by assassinating the Hamas military commander last week, manicurist Adi Cherry called her salon saying she would not be going back to work. For five days she never left home, sleeping in the family shelter with her husband and 5-year-old daughter, Osher.

"She watches the news. She knows what's going on. She counts the booms she hears outside," Cherry said of her daughter. "But I have anxieties. I'm deathly scared."

On Sunday, she finally built up enough courage to return to work at the mall. There were barely any customers, but it was still busier than it had been in recent days.

Cherry couldn't relax, constantly checking her "Code Red" iPhone application that tracks where air raid sirens were sounding to warn of impending rocket strikes. Nearby were signs to the closest shelter.

"Yesterday I couldn't even go to the bathroom," she said. "Nearly every time I got to the door I heard a siren."

At the adjacent Aroma coffee shop, 15-year-old Shir Damari was enjoying a chocolate shake.

"It's my first time out of the house. I'm going crazy there. It's so boring and I'm getting fat because all I do is eat," the 10th-grader said. "I want to get out and see the world, but there is nowhere to go."

A few minutes later, the siren sounded. The Aroma waiters ushered Damari and others into the shelter.

"I'm so scared," she said.

Police said two people were slightly wounded in Sunday's attack. Afterward, the few shops that were open began shutting down, some out of fear, others for lack of clients.

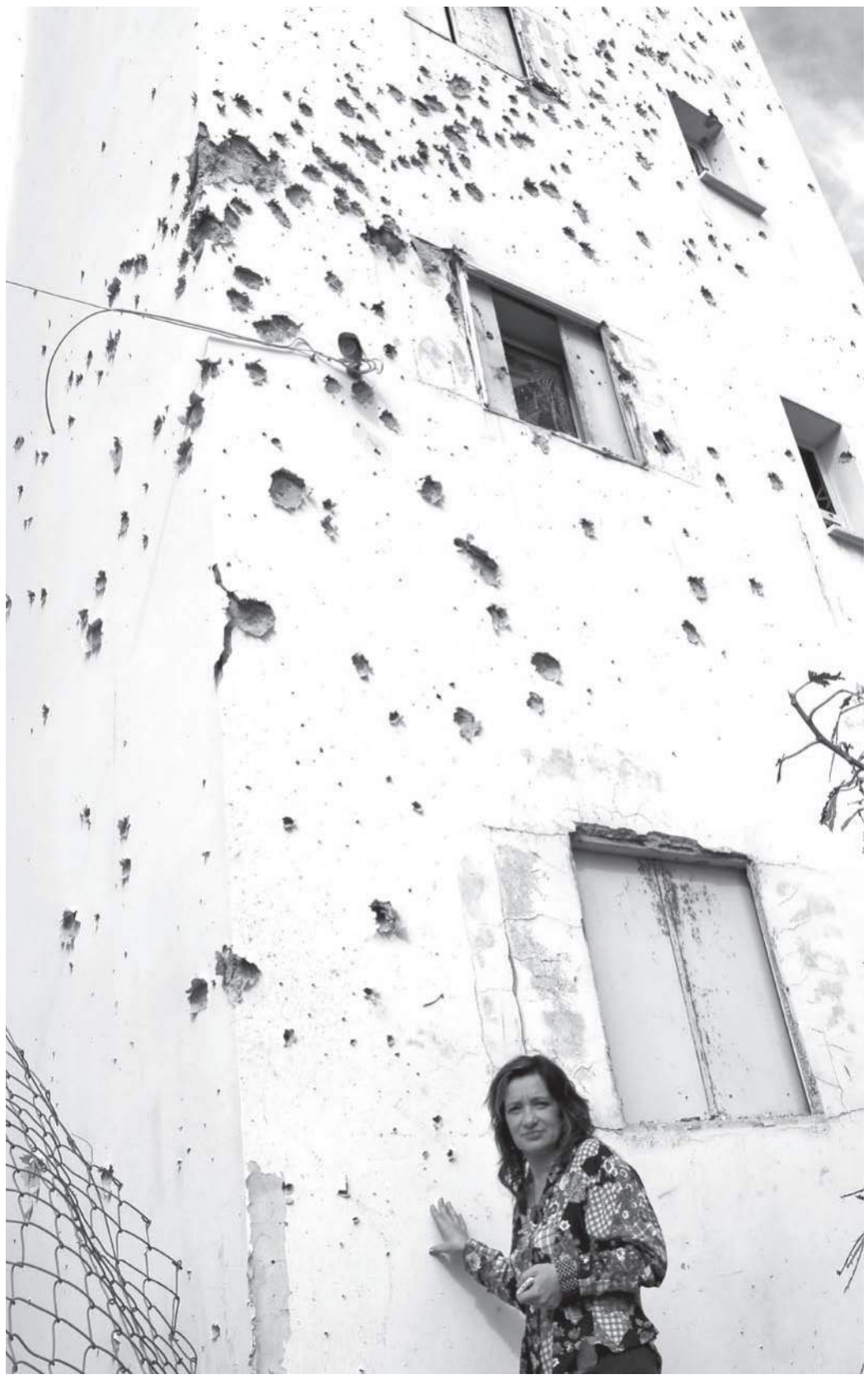
The big-screen TV in the Foto Life shop blared news of the latest strike.

"It landed right next to my mom's place. She said the whole building shook," said Etti Gabai, a 45-year-old clerk. "She's not well. She had to take some anxiety pills to calm down."

At the Castro clothing store, one of the few shops to remain open, employees turned to the only topic in town.

Eden Lankri, a 21-year-old saleswoman, said she has been largely confined to her room and, making matters worse, her boyfriend had been called up for military reserve duty. Even so, she hoped the offensive would continue.

"We don't want a cease-fire yet. We can continue to absorb it all so long as eventually it will stop once and for all," she said. "If we stop now it will be a waste. There have to be results this time."



AP

A woman stands next to a damaged house after a rocket fired by Palestinian militants from Gaza Strip landed in Ashkelon, southern Israel, Sunday, Nov. 18, 2012. Israel launched the operation last Wednesday by assassinating Hamas' military chief and carrying out dozens of airstrikes on rocket launchers and weapons storage sites. Over the weekend, the operation began to target Hamas government installations as well, including the offices of its prime minister and attacks on a major training base and the two media centers.

Casualties, attacks in Israel-Hamas conflict

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP)—Casualties and attacks in the Israel-Hamas conflict since the fighting began:

- At least 74 Palestinians, both militants and civilians, have been killed in Gaza.
- Three Israeli civilians have been killed and more than 60 injured by Palestinian rockets.
- Gaza militants have fired more than 1000 rockets at southern Israeli communities since the start of the operation. Of them, 544 exploded inside Israel, the military said.
- Israel says its Iron Dome missile defense system has intercepted about 290 rockets.
- The Israeli military says it has hit more than 1,200 military targets in Gaza.

Overdrive

Mercedes-Benz gives the GLK its first styling update for the 2013 model year.

MERCEDES-BENZ/MCT

Small refinements pay off with Mercedes-Benz GLK

By LARRY PRINTZ
THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

MEADOWS OF DAN, Va.—Any celebrity knows that a little nip and tuck goes a long way. Some celebrities have had their faces pulled so tight, their lips meet their foreheads.

Thankfully, the 2013 Mercedes-Benz GLK hasn't suffered such indignities. When it comes to facelifts, this model year is its first time under the knife. The changes are subtle but effective.

Visually, the familiar styling details from the larger G-Class and GL-Class remain, although headlights and taillights have been updated with fiber optics and LEDs. The whole front seems simplified and softened; that helps offset this vehicle's sharp, angular lines, which carry over unchanged from its inception in 2010.

The bigger news is inside, where stylists have used interior materials more appropriate for the price; the GLK no longer looks or feels like a taxicab. Mercedes' traditional large chrome vents, liberal use of wood trim and a better grade of materials make a significant difference in overall ambience.

It's all packed into an entry-level luxury SUV that's almost a foot shorter than a Mercedes-Benz M-Class. The front seats are acceptably roomy, but the rear seat legroom is a bit dear. Better to fold down the rear seat and use it for stashing antiques acquired during a weekend shopping trip.

While the GLK's length may inhibit second-row legroom, it does wonders for maneuverability. This helped by the improved steering feel, and the suspension, which is well dampened. Body lean through corners is minimal.

NUTS & BOLTS

2013 Mercedes-Benz GLK:

- Engine: 3.5-liter DOHC V-6
- Wheelbase: 108.5 inches
- Length: 178.3 inches
- Weight: 4,079 pounds
- EPA rating (city/highway): 19/24 mpg
- Fuel type: Premium
- Base price, base model: $37,090
- Base price, test model: $39,090
- As tested: Not available

But the best part of the 2013 GLK is its heart transplant. Under the restyled hood you'll find a brawny new 3.5-liter V-6 that makes all the right noises. Although it's the same size as last year's engine, it produces 34 more horsepower. A seven-speed automatic transmission is standard and can be shifted manually through paddles mounted on the steering wheel.

With 302 ponies on tap, the GLK can reach 60 mph in 6.4 seconds, which seems valid. The engine, in concert with the new interior, transforms this SUV's personality. Performance is strong, but not overpowering. It's downright fun to drive.

But the GLK is frugal as well. This compact SUV automatically shuts off the engine when you come to a stop. Lift your foot off the brake, and the engine restarts.

Such goodness can be had for a starting price of $37,090 for the base rear-drive model without options. All-wheel drive adds $2,000.That's not a lot of money for a compact SUV that wears the three-pointed star.

And when it comes to looking good, for many buyers, the star and its attributes are all that matters.

Toyota recalls Prius and Corolla models

Toyota Motor Corp. on Wednesday announced two safety recalls for its flagship Prius hybrid.

In one recall, the automaker said the steering intermediate extension shafts in 670,000 Prius cars sold in the U.S. need to be inspected and in some cases replaced. In the second recall, 350,000 of those hybrids also will have to have their electric water pumps replaced.

Toyota will recall an additional 2 million vehicles worldwide, including the Prius and the Corolla, to fix the same problems.

These actions follow another large recall by Toyota barely a month ago. In October, the Japanese automaker recalled 2.5 million vehicles nationally to fix a faulty power window switch that has been linked to at least nine injuries and several hundred reports of smoke and fire.

The big recalls come as Toyota's vehicle sales in the U.S. have been surging after being derailed last year. Sales were hurt by manufacturing disruptions and inventory shortages caused by the Japan earthquake. Massive recalls in 2010 for sudden acceleration problems and other safety defects also added to Toyota's sales woes.

In the U.S., the recalls include 2004 through 2009 model year Prius hybrids.

The steering shaft problem results from a manufacturing error in which certain parts in the system did not have the required hardness and could deform. Additionally, in some cars the electric motor that drives the water pump circulating coolant through the hybrid components can shut off. In some cases, this can cause the hybrid system to stop while the vehicle is being driven.

There have been no crashes or injuries reported for these two conditions. ***(Los Angeles Times)***

UNDER THE HOOD

The makings of the perfect auto emergency kit

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

QUESTION: Can you recommend a kit to keep in the car for emergencies? I've seen them for sale but thought the parts were cheap quality and the kit not complete enough.—Paula Kelly

ANSWER: My list is large, designed for folks who really hit the road, or off of it. Others can pick and choose to suit their needs and available trunk space. Assembling the kit will take some time but could be well worth the effort. Please write with additional suggestions; I'll gather them and follow up in a few weeks.

- First aid kit
- Hand sanitizer and alcohol wipes
- Road flares (replace every five years)
- Gloves
- Zippo lighter
- Flashlight (Home Depot's Rayovac Indestructible 2 AA LED light is my choice)
- Spare AA batteries
- Space or foil blankets
- Whistle
- Signal mirror from a marine supply store
- Ponchos
- Granola bars, vacuum-sealed
- Gallon of drinking water, which can also be used as engine coolant
- Battery jumper cables, but not cheap ones
- Tire pressure gauge, preferably dial type
- A few sheet rock screws, for plugging small tire holes
- Nonflammable aerosol tire inflator/sealer
- Radiator stop leak, such as AlumAseal or Bar's Leaks
- Roll of Rescue Tape or electrical tape to repair hoses
- Assortment of zip ties
- Small roll of baling wire
- Roll of duct tape for mending broken things
- Quart of motor oil
- Quart of automatic transmission fluid
- $10.00 in quarters, a ten-dollar bill
- Paper and pencil
- Partial or larger roll of paper towels
- Tarp or towel to lay or kneel on, when changing a tire or making repairs
- "Need help" sign or sun shade
- Orange smoke flare from marine supply store
- Sturdy bag for carrying supplies
- Leatherman or similar multi-tool
- Slip joint and vise grip pliers
- #2 standard and Phillips screwdrivers
- Scissors
- Previously replaced fan or serpentine belt, as a spare
- Assortment of fuses—check if your car uses SFE, ATO, mini ATO fuses or low profile mini ATO
- Tire chains, seasonally

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Life & Style

Justin Bieber dominates at American Music Awards

By MESFIN FEKADU
AP MUSIC WRITER

America proved its Bieber Fever was strong: The teen singer dominated the American Music Awards on Sunday night.

Bieber's wins included the show's top award, artist of the year. His mom joined him onstage as he collected the trophy, beating out Rihanna, Maroon 5, Katy Perry and Drake.

"I wanted to thank you for always believing in me," Bieber said, looking to his mom.

The 18-year-old also won the honor in 2010. He said it's "hard growing up with everyone watching me" and asked that people continue to believe in him.

Bieber and Nicki Minaj performed together—and separately—at the AMAs, and were both multiple winners.

But another collaboration was the night's most colorful performance: Korean rapper PSY and MC Hammer. Hammer joined the buzzed-about pop star for his viral hit "Gangnam Style." PSY rocked traditional "Hammer" pants as they danced to his jam and to Hammer's "Too Legit to Quit."

Bieber won favorite pop/rock male artist in the first award handed out at Sunday's show and gave a shout-out to those who didn't think he would last on the music scene.

"I want to say this is for all the haters who thought I was just here for one or two years. I feel like I'm going to be here for a very long time," he said.

He also won favorite pop/rock album for his platinum-selling third album, "Believe." He gave a stripped down, acoustic performance of "As Long As You Love Me," then transitioned to the dance-heavy "Beauty and a Beat," where Minaj joined him onstage, grinding with the teen for a few seconds.

Minaj, who wore three different wigs and four outfits throughout the night, repeated her AMAs wins from last year, picking up trophies for favorite rap/hip-hop artist and album for "Pink Friday: Roman Reloaded." She was in an all-white get-up, including fur coat and pink hair when she performed her new song "Freedom." The scene was ghostly and snowy, as a choir—also in white—joined her onstage. One background singer stole the performance, belting semi-high notes as Minaj looked on.

As Bieber won his second award, he was kissed on the neck by Jenny McCarthy, who presented the award.

"Wow. I feel violated right now," he said, laughing.

"I did grab his butt," McCarthy said backstage. "I couldn't help it. He was just so delicious. So little. I wanted to tear his head off and eat it."

Bieber's red and black outfit seemed to be the night's theme, as Taylor Swift and Usher wore similar ensembles.

Usher kicked off the three-hour show with green laser lights beaming onstage as he performed a medley of songs, including "Numb," ''Climax" and "Can't Stop, Won't Stop," which featured a smoky floor and a number of backup dancers, as Usher jammed in all black, with the exception of his red shoes. He won favorite soul/R&B male artist.

Swift won her fifth consecutive award for favorite country female artist.

"This is unreal. I want to thank the fans. You guys are the ones who voted on this," she said.

Swift gave a masquerade-themed performance of the pop song "I Knew You Were Trouble." She sang onstage in a light dress while dancers wore mostly black. But then she changed into a red corset and black skirt, matching their dark mood. She even danced and sang on the floor as lights flickered throughout the performance.

Dick Clark, who created the AMAs, was remembered by Ryan Seacrest and an upbeat performance by Stevie Wonder.

"What a producer he was," said Seacrest, as Wonder sang his hits, including "My Cherie Amour."

Carly Rae Jepsen, who performed early in the night, won favorite new artist.

"I am floored. Wow," she said, thanking Bieber and his manager, Scooter Braun.

Party girl Ke$ha was glammed up on the red carpet, rocking long, flowy blonde hair and a light pink dress. She switched to her normal attire when she performed her hit single "Die Young." It was tribal, with shirtless dancers in skin-tight pants, silver hair and skeleton-painted faces, who also played the drums. Ke$ha was pants-less, rocking knee-high boots and rolling on the floor as she finished up the song.

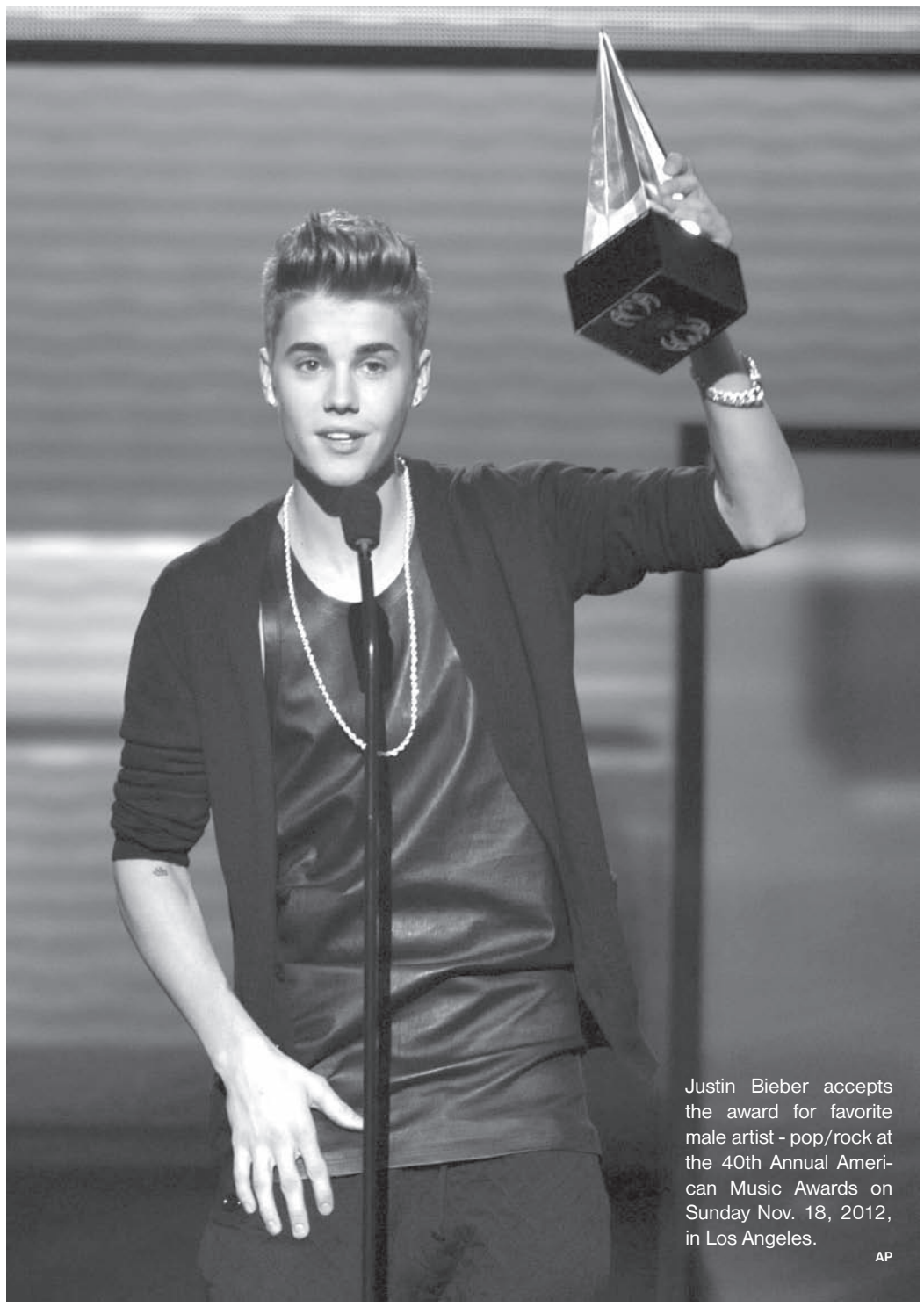
Minaj and Christina Aguilera were blonde bombshells, too: Minaj's hair was busy and full of volume and she sported a neon strapless gown to accept her first award. Aguilera wore a blonde bob in a purple dress that matched her eyeshadow.

Aguilera performed a medley of material from her new album and joined Pitbull onstage.

WINNERS' LIST

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Winners of the 40th anniversary American Music Awards, presented Sunday at the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles:

- Artist of the year: Justin Bieber
- New artist of the year: Carly Rae Jepsen
- Pop/rock female artist: Katy Perry
- Pop/rock male artist: Justin Bieber
- Pop/rock band, duo or group: Maroon 5
- Pop/rock album: Justin Bieber, "Believe"
- Country female artist: Taylor Swift
- Country male artist: Luke Bryan
- Country band, duo or group: Lady Antebellum
- Country album: Carrie Underwood, "Blown Away"
- Rap/hip-hop artist: Nicki Minaj
- Rap/hip-hop album: Nicki Minaj, "Pink Friday: Roman Reloaded"
- Soul/R&B female artist: Beyonce
- Soul/R&B male artist: Usher
- Soul/R&B album: Rihanna, "Talk That Talk"
- Alternative rock artist: Linkin Park
- Adult contemporary artist: Adele
- Artist, Latin: Shakira
- Artist, contemporary inspirational: tobyMac
- Artist, electronic dance music: David Guetta



Justin Bieber accepts the award for favorite male artist - pop/rock at the 40th Annual American Music Awards on Sunday Nov. 18, 2012, in Los Angeles.
AP

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One (1) Building Custodian
Minimum qualifications: Three months experience as building custodian or maintenance worker.
Duties: Keeps buildings and business premises in clean and orderly condition. Performs cleaning duties, such as cleaning floors, washing walls and glass, and removing rubbish from inside and outside of business premises. Performs routine maintenance activities and notifies management of need for repairs. Requisition supplies or equipment needed for cleaning and maintenance duties.

One (1) Sales Representative
Minimum qualifications: Associates degree (may be foreign and/or educational equivalent).
Duties: Sells company's merchandise to retail stores and outlets. Meets with customers in order to explain and promote the quality and competitive costing of the company's products. Quotes prices and credit terms for purchase of company's products. Prepares sales slips or sales contracts and may collect payment from customers. Ensures that customers' orders are properly filled. Arranges for delivery of products to customers.

One (1) Sales/Delivery Person
Minimum qualifications: Three months experience as a sales/delivery person or cashier.
Duties: Sells and delivers company's merchandise to retail stores and outlets. Informs regular customers of new products or price changes. Writes customer orders and sales contracts according to company guidelines. Collects money from customers, make change, and records transactions on customer receipts. Listens to and resolves customers' complaints regarding products. Record sales and delivery information on daily sales or delivery record. May call on prospective customers to explain company products or to solicit new business.

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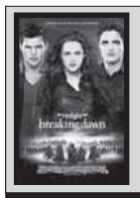

Twilight: Breaking Dawn Part 2

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:30
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:30
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Cast: Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson, Taylor Lautner
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG13

Synopsis

The epic love story between Bella Swan and Edward Cullen concludes in this final installment of Stephenie Meyer's best-selling series. Dreamgirls' Bill Condon directs this second segment of the two film adaptation.

Flight

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:55
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:55
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Cast: Denzel Washington, Don Cheadle, Kelly Reilly
Genre: Drama • Rated R

Synopsis

A pilot with a substance abuse problem has to land a crippled airliner in this Robert Zemeckis-directed drama for Paramount Pictures. Real Steel's John Gatins provides the script. Denzel Washington stars.

Skyfall

Friday		4:15	7:15	10:00
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	10:00
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Monday thru Thursday		4:15	7:15	

Cast: Daniel Craig, Judi Dench, Javier Bardem
Genre: Spy film, Action • Rated PG13

Synopsis

James Bond returns for another entry in the secret-agent franchise with Sam Mendes at the helm and Daniel Craig back for the twenty-third official Bond film. Neal Purvis, Robert Wade and John Logan provide the script.

Wreck-It Ralph 3D

Friday			7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05		7:05	9:35
Sunday	1:05		7:05	
Monday thru Thursday			7:05	

Cast: John C. Reilly, Sarah Silverman
Genre: Children's/family • Rated PG

Wreck-It Ralph 2D

Friday		4:05		
Saturday		4:05		
Sunday		4:05		
Monday thru Thursday		4:05		

Cast: John C. Reilly, Sarah Silverman
Genre: Children's/family • Rated PG

Silent Hill: Revelation 3D

Friday		4:30	7:30	9:45
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:45
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Monday thru Thursday		4:30	7:30	

Cast: Adelaide Clemens, Carrie-Anne Moss
Genre: Horror • Rated R

Here Comes The Boom

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:40
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:40
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Monday thru Thursday		4:20	7:20	

Cast: Kevin James, Henry Winkler, Salma Hayek
Genre: Comedy • Rated PG

Hotel Transylvania 2D

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:50
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:50
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Monday thru Thursday		4:25	7:25	

Cast: Adam Sandler, Selena Gomez, Kevin James
Genre: Children's/family • Rated PG

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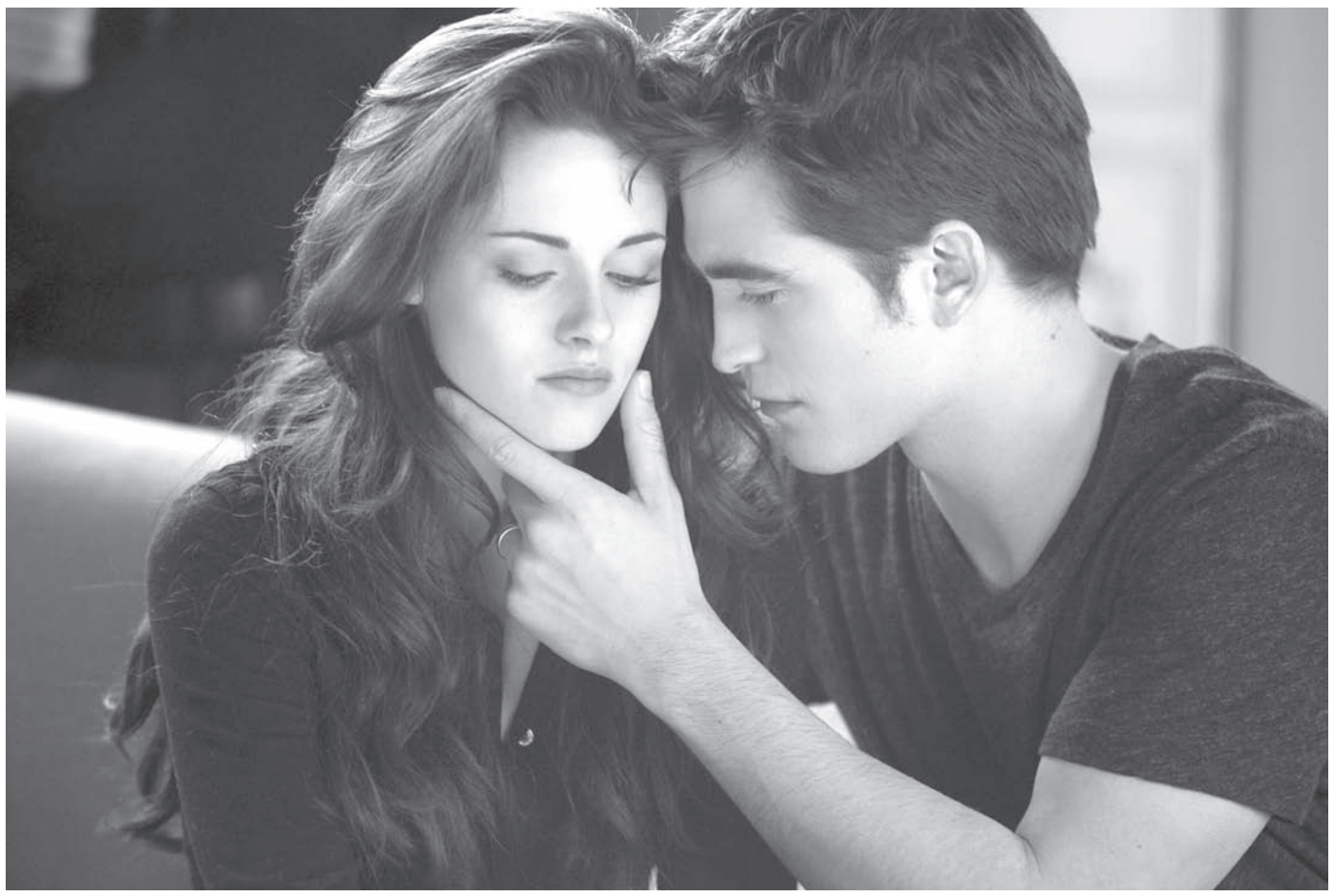
'Twilight' finale dawns with $141.3M weekend



AP

This film image released by Summit Entertainment shows Kristen Stewart, left, and Robert Pattinson in a scene from "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2."

By DAVID GERMAIN
AP MOVIE WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The sun has set on the "Twilight" franchise with one last blockbuster opening for the supernatural romance.

"The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn—Part 2" sucked up $141.3 million domestically over opening weekend and $199.6 million more overseas for a worldwide debut of $340.9 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The finale ranks eighth on the list of all-time domestic debuts, and leaves "Twilight" with three of the top-10 openings, joining 2009's "New Moon" (No. 7 with $142.8 million) and last year's "Breaking Dawn—Part 1" (No. 9 with $138.1 million).

Last May's "The Avengers" is No. 1 with $207.4 million. "Batman" is the only other franchise with more than one top-10 opening: July's "The Dark Knight Rises" (No. 3 with $160.9 million) and 2008's "The Dark Knight" (No. 4 with $158.4 million).

Though "Twilight" still is a female-driven franchise, with girls and women making up 79 percent of the opening-weekend audience, the finale drew the series' biggest male crowds. Action-minded guys had more to root for in the finale as Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson and Taylor Lautner join in a colossal battle to end the story of warring vampires and werewolves.

"Our male audience particularly has enjoyed this film," said Richie Fay, head of distribution for Lionsgate, whose Summit Entertainment banner releases the "Twilight" movies. "With the action scenes in this one, we're hoping the holdover business will reflect the fact that males have kind of found it out."

The movie also helped lift Lionsgate into the big leagues among Hollywood studios. Paced by its $400 million smash with "The Hunger Games" and now the "Twilight" finale, Lionsgate surpassed $1 billion at the domestic box office for the first time.

The "Twilight" finale took over the No. 1 spot from Sony's James Bond adventure "Skyfall," which slipped to second place with $41.5 million domestically in its second weekend. "Skyfall" raised its domestic total to $161.3 million.

The franchise's third film starring Daniel Craig as Bond, "Skyfall" began rolling out overseas in late October and has hit $507.9 million internationally at the box office. The film's global total climbed to $669.2 million, helping to lift Sony to its best year ever with $4 billion worldwide, topping the studio's $3.6 billion haul in 2009.

"Skyfall" passed the previous franchise high of $599.2 million worldwide for 2006's "Casino Royale."

Steven Spielberg and Daniel Day-Lewis' Civil War drama "Lincoln" expanded nationwide after a week in limited release and came in at No. 3 with $21 million. Distributed by Disney, "Lincoln" lifted its domestic haul to $22.4 million.

Keira Knightley's period drama "Anna Karenina" also started well in limited release with $315,395 in 16 theaters, for an average of $19,712. The Focus Features film stars Knightley in the title role of Leo Tolstoy's tragic romance.

1. "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn—Part 2," $141.3 million ($199.6 million international).
2. "Skyfall," $41.5 million ($49.6 million international).
3. "Lincoln," $21 million.
4. "Wreck-It Ralph," $18.3 million ($4.8 million international).
5. "Flight," $8.6 million ($1 million international).
6. "Argo," $4.1 million ($8.7 million international).
7. "Taken 2," $2.1 million ($2 million international).
8. "Pitch Perfect," $1.3 million ($4.1 million international).
9. "Here Comes the Boom," $1.2 million ($2.5 million international).
10 (tie). "Cloud Atlas," $900,000 ($5 million international).
10 (tie). "Hotel Transylvania," $900,000 ($7.8 million international).
10 (tie). "The Sessions," $900,000.

More celebs help US tribes' push for sacred land

By KRISTI EATON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SIOUX FALLS, South Dakota (AP)—More celebrities are backing an online campaign to raise money so that Native American tribes in South Dakota can purchase land they consider sacred.

P Diddy and Bette Midler are the latest big names to throw their support behind a fundraising effort to buy nearly 2,000 acres (800 hectares) of pristine prairie grass in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

Three days after the campaign began, P Diddy tweeted: "Help save the Sioux Nation! Click here," and linked to the website. Midler also lent her voice, tweeting: "Incredible story re the Sioux Sacred Grounds. Donate what you can."

More than $18,000 had been raised as of Sunday afternoon—$6,000 flowed in immediately after P Diddy's tweet. The campaign will last through Nov. 30, when the tribes of the Great Sioux Nation must have $9 million in order to purchase the land.

The tribes have raised $7 million so far for the 1,942 acres (786 hectares), which they call Pe' Sla (pay shlaw), or "old baldy." There are Sioux tribes in the Dakotas, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska and Canada.

The property is important to their creation story, and tribal members have long held ceremonies there. When the land was put up for sale, tribal members worried it would be developed because of its proximity to Mount Rushmore.

Landowners Leonard and Margaret Reynolds canceled a public auction of the property earlier this year after tribal members expressed outrage. The Reynolds then accepted the tribes' bid to purchase the land for $9 million if they have the money by Nov. 30.

The couple has repeatedly said they will not speak publicly about the land sale.

P Diddy and Midler join actor Ezra Miller and hip-hop producer Sol Guy in showing their support for the cause.

Seacrest, Wonder, Usher, others praise Dick Clark

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ryan Seacrest and Stevie Wonder paid homage to Dick Clark on stage, while Usher and will.i.am shared their praise for the TV icon and music lover off camera.

Clark, who died earlier this year, was the subject of a special tribute at the American Music Awards, which he created 40 years ago.

Seacrest said the show still reflects Clark's original vision: Bring together the year's most popular artists and "let the music speak for itself."

"Dick loved the power of music and its ability to create pure joy," Seacrest said Sunday before introducing Wonder, whom he described someone Clark loved as a friend and musician for 49 years.

"I remember his friendship and his kindness. I remember his love for music and his love for people," Wonder said. "I challenge you, you as communicators, leaders, politicians, spiritual leaders: Put your love first like we musicians put our music first... Then we can be jamming until the break of dawn."

Wonder played a medley of songs as images of Clark and the many musicians he worked with flashed across the screen.

Other artists shared their admiration for Clark on the red carpet and backstage at the Nokia Theatre. Will.i.am, who presented the artist of the year award to Justin Bieber, said Clark's legacy for spotting and encouraging talent is why the American Music Awards have endured for 40 years.

"I remember seeing Whitney Houston on the American Music Awards. Lionel Richie. Santana. Jefferson Airplane," he said. "Think of all the classic, iconic television moments. Now, my generation is part of it and the next generation is part of this American iconic family time."

Usher, who was named favorite male soul/R&B artist Sunday, said he always admired Clark and aims to emulate his legacy of fostering young talent.

"He's so rich with culture and been able to recognize talent for so many years and have an incredible legacy. I'm just really happy to still be a part of it and still take an award home," Usher said. "To be an artist that's been able to continue to evolve and transcend culture, it's from the book of Dick Clark, the fact that he's, throughout generations, been able to recognize incredible talent across genres."

Usher helped foster the career of the night's big winner, Justin Bieber, who accepted awards for pop/rock male artist, pop/rock album for "Believe" and artist of the year Sunday.

"The proof is in the pudding," Usher said. "The longer you do it, the more of an example you can set and being able to be that to him, being a mentor and just being an artist who continues to evolve... we're just going to continue to push him to be his best self."

In this Oct. 11, 2012 photo, "Hungry Girl" Lisa Lillien poses in her office in the Woodland Hills area of Los Angeles.

AP

How Hungry Girl shed the pounds without guilt

By JOHN ROGERS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES (AP)—She never set out to become the maven of guilt-free, fun-food dieting, the go-to girl for people who want to have their cake—and cheeseburgers and chili fries—and eat them, too, without getting fat.

No, 10 years ago, Lisa Lillien says, she was just another 30-something LA "Hungry Girl." Someone who needed to drop 15 or 20 pounds (seven or nine kilograms) and would do so periodically by following an all-liquid diet or a one-meal-a-day diet or whatever other weight-loss regimen was in vogue.

Afterward, she'd return to her beloved jam-slathered bagels and french fries and gain it all back.

"Then one day I just woke up and I said, 'You know what? That's not the way to tackle a weight problem,'" says the trim but not skinny Lillien who, presides over a multimillion-dollar empire of Hungry Girl cookbooks, low-calorie recipes, specialty products and TV shows, all of them geared to letting people eat the junk food they love and not get fat.

The trick is discovering why you're eating too many calories, says Lillien, as she dashes from a couch at Hungry Girl headquarters to the kitchen, to help an assistant whip up baked potato skins stuffed with cheese and bacon.

In her case and, she believes, most everybody else's, too many people are unwilling to give up comfort foods like pizza, spaghetti, cookies and cake in the name of better health.

Neither is Lillien, who likes to joke there was a time when she'd climb over a table to steal a companion's french fries.

These days she just remakes them—and a thousand other foods.

Her baked potato skins, for example, are really made out of zucchini stuffed with low-calorie cheese and bacon flavoring.

She bakes her chili-cheese fries and uses butternut squash, not potatoes. They clock in at 268 calories, about a quarter the amount in traditional fries.

Recipes for those and other feel-good foods like lasagna, pizza and spongecake have placed Lillien atop a brand that has grown phenomenally in the eight years since the former TV executive came up with the name (it just popped into her head one day) and blasted a daily email to 75 people.

Today, 1.2 million subscribers get a mix of recipes, advice and ads for food companies like Star Kist and General Mills, whose products she endorses.

Lillien, who started the business at home, now oversees a staff of 12 at a sprawling office in Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley.

To some extent, the headquarters more closely resembles a huge teenage girl's room with a kitchen thrown in. Pillows and cushions scattered about are decorated with pictures of Tootsie Rolls, Sweet Tarts and other candies. Cans of soup, packages of nuts, bowls of chips and other ingredients are stacked here and there. On one wall a silk-screen depicts a can of Campbell's Soup, with Dino the dinosaur from "The Flintstones" TV show, on the label.

It's here that Lillien and her staff experiment, mad-scientist-like, she says, with thousands of recipes.

The result is Italian, Mexican, Chinese and even unique Hungry Girl food, the latter including all kinds of egg-white concoctions that can be microwaved in a mug. That came about because even before she began counting calories she was often too lazy to pull out a skillet and fry anything.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Charlie Chaplin's bowler hat sold at LA auction

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The bowler hat and cane that accented Charlie Chaplin's costume in "Little Tramp" has sold for $62,500 at an auction in Los Angeles. Bonhams said the silent film star's trademark accessories were sold Sunday at an auction of Hollywood mementos. Other notable items included a handwritten letter from John Lennon with a nude drawing of him and Yoko Ono. It went for $25,000. A set of original photographs of Marilyn Monroe sold for $21,250 and a painting by Frank Sinatra went for $10,625.

Appeal by 'Desperate Housewives' actress denied

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The California Supreme Court has declined to review Nicollette Sheridan's lawsuit over the demise of her role on "Desperate Housewives." The state's high court said Friday it would deny an appeal by the actress in her wrongful termination case against the ABC network and Touchstone Television. Sheridan said she was fired because she claimed she was hit in the head by series creator Marc Cherry. ABC attorneys claimed Sheridan's contract simply was not renewed. In March, jurors deadlocked after a two-week trial. An appeals court found in August that Sheridan was not entitled to a new trial, but should be allowed to file an amended lawsuit claiming she was retaliated against because she complained about her boss. "Desperate Housewives" concluded its eight-season run this year.

NJ Gov. Christie makes cameo appearance on 'SNL'

NEW YORK (AP)—New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie can't get enough of "Saturday Night Live." One day after ducking questions about Twinkies-maker Hostess shutting down to avoid giving comedians fodder and saying he's on "SNL" enough, Christie made a cameo appearance on "Weekend Update." The tough-talking governor poked fun at his notoriously short temper and the familiar blue fleece jacket that he has worn while touring the state following Superstorm Sandy. Christie thanked the Red Cross and first responders. He also thanked his wife, who he said has put up with "a husband who has smelled like a wet fleece for the last three weeks." He took a swipe at New Jersey officials who failed to follow his orders before Sandy, refusing to thank "any of the stupid mayors" who ignored his evacuation orders, calling them "idiots." Christie closed by quoting from the Bruce Springsteen song "Atlantic City."

Doctor's silence after wife's death adds to widower's grief

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: My wife, "Margie," recently lost her five-year battle with leukemia. I'm still grieving this huge loss. Something I found particularly upsetting was the apathetic attitude of her doctor and his staff.

Margie was seeing a specialist in a city 300 miles from our home. It involved many trips to his office as well as extended hospital treatments. During this period, we considered the doctor and his staff more than health care providers. We thought of them as our friends. Margie would often bring them home-cooked meals or pastries from a bakery. In addition, because she did fine needlework, she made all the women a set of dishtowels.

After my wife passed away at home, I sent a note to the doctor and his staff, thanking them and expressing gratitude for all they had done for her. I never received one message in return. I understand they treat many patients, but don't you think SOMEONE could have given me a call or sent a sympathy card?

I attend a bereavement support group and was surprised that I am not the only one who has had the same experience. Is it normal for health care providers to stop all contact with spouses after a loved one dies?

STILL GRIEVING IN ARKANSAS

DEAR STILL GRIEVING: I'm very sorry for your loss, and for your disappointment. However, everyone deals with death and dying differently and doctors are people, too. In the field of oncology, for every victory there are also many deaths. Emotional detachment is sometimes the way that these physicians and staff protect themselves from emotional pain. Please forgive them.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My son-in-law "Ralph" is a good father, good husband and we have gotten along well for nearly 20 years. But an issue has come up that has me really upset.

Ralph was an exceptional wrestler in high school until a shoulder injury ended his career. Now he wants his 10-year-old son, "Carter," to wrestle. Carter went to a few practices in early elementary school, but showed no real interest in the sport. However, he does like basketball and shows potential to be a decent player.

Right now, my grandson's dream is to have a cellphone, and Ralph has promised to get him one—if he goes out for wrestling. I said I'd buy him a phone so he won't have to go out for wrestling just to get one.

I'm afraid Carter could get hurt while participating in a sport he has no real desire for, and could end up being unable to play the sport of his choice. I know there's danger of injury in any sport, but at least if an injury did occur, it would be while doing something he wants to do. And injuries aside, he should be able to pursue the sport of his choice, not his dad's. We need some guidance here.

FRUSTRATED GRANDMA IN IOWA

DEAR GRANDMA: I agree with you, and for the sensible reasons you stated. However, I would add this: It appears your son-in-law may be attempting to relive a chapter of his life in which he failed to succeed because of his injury. To lure his son away from the sport he likes by bribing him to go into wrestling is unfair to the boy. I hope you and your daughter will talk to Ralph and tell him you think this is a bad idea, and that he will listen to you.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

LOOK HOBBES, I GOT A PAINT-BY-NUMBERS KIT! IT'S REALLY FUN.
BUT YOU'RE NOT PAINTING IN THE LINES AND YOU'RE NOT USING THE COLORS THAT CORRESPOND TO THE NUMBERS.
IF I DID THAT, I'D GET THE PICTURE THEY SHOW ON THE BOX!
AH.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

THAT'S A GOOD GIRL, GUMBO.
WOW. YOU ARE SO STRONG.
I'M GONNA RECOMMEND YOU FOR THE NEXT AVENGERS MOVIE.
BUT KEEP YOUR EYE ON ROBERT DOWNEY. I DON'T TRUST HIM.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

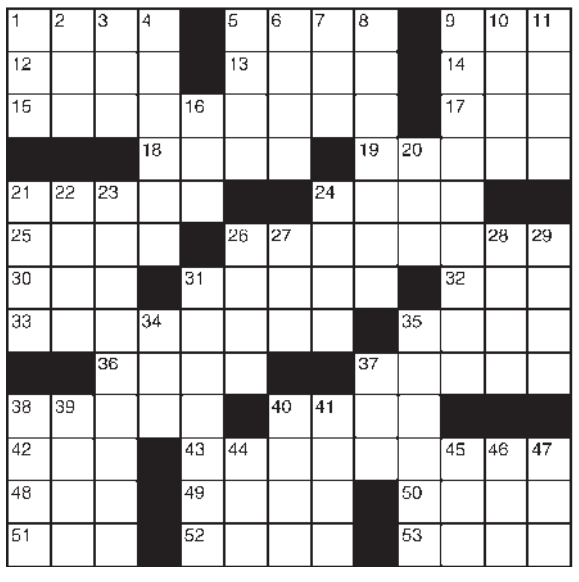
ACROSS
1 Finished
5 Western state
9 Netflix rental
12 Tragic
13 Mexican money
14 Debtor's letters
15 Doctor's determination
17 Beer cousin
18 Family member
19 Hides
21 Contribute to the mix
24 "Galloping dominoes"
25 Destroy
26 Proud birds
30 Alias (abbr.)
31 "No man is an island" writer
32 Cravat
33 Maryland city
35 Ill will
36 Wedding shower?
37 Breakfast side dish
38 Part of Hispaniola
40 Tolerate
42 Recede
43 Vibrating part of a microphone
48 Honest politician
49 Rim
50 Always
51 — Moines
52 American Beauty, e.g.
53 Allows

DOWN
1 Peculiar
2 Half of XIV
3 Historic period
4 Get back
5 "Once — a time ..."
6 Examination
7 "— was saying, ..."
8 Monastery lodging
9 Science of logic
10 Chevrolet model
11 Union payment
16 Sister
20 "Foucault's Pendulum" author
21 Bedouin
22 Noble title
23 Bitter speeches
24 Carvey or Delany
26 Sit for a shot
27 Conclusion
28 Narc's measure
29 Spotted
31 Tie-breaking game, e.g.
34 Smack
35 Keg
37 "Humbug!"
38 Leader
39 French cleric
40 Luggage
41 Duel tool
44 Altar affirmative
45 Rd.
46 Understand
47 Wife's address

Solution time: 21 mins.

P	A	P	A	■	S	A	D	■	G	A	Z	E
E	V	I	D	E	N	C	E	■	A	X	E	L
R	E	N	O	V	A	I	E	■	M	I	R	A
■	■	■	R	I	G	■	P	O	I	S	O	N
E	A	S	E	L	■	F	E	R	N	■	■	■
E	F	T	S	■	R	E	N	E	G	E	D	■
L	A	Y	■	M	A	T	E	S	■	V	E	E
■	R	E	N	A	M	E	D	■	B	E	A	T
■	■	■	A	L	P	S	■	P	A	N	D	A
C	H	O	R	E	A	■	K	I	N	■	■	■
H	E	R	R	■	R	E	N	T	A	C	A	R
A	L	S	O	■	T	R	I	A	N	G	L	E
P	L	O	W	■	S	E	T	■	A	I	L	S

Yesterday's answer 11-20



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ashley Fink, 26; Dan Byrd, 27; Joel McHale, 41; Bo Derek, 56.

Happy Birthday: Size up what lies ahead, and make sure you are heading in the right direction before you take a leap of faith. Good timing will be essential and strategy will be necessary. Keep your emotions under control and question anyone appearing to have ulterior motives. Your numbers are 3, 12, 23, 26, 34, 38, 46.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Keep a low profile. Protect your security and your reputation. Be prepared to make last-minute changes if it will ensure your success. A responsible and reticent approach to money and negotiations will help you outmaneuver your competition. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Planning a trip that will bring you closer to old friends and family should be considered. Asking for favors that will enable you to explore something you have wanted to do for some time will also enhance a relationship with someone special. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Added income will be the direct result of hard work and a workable budget. Don't let anyone talk you into spending unnecessarily or allow your emotions to lead to an impulsive purchase. Moderation will keep you stress free and will impress onlookers. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Set your goals high and strive to achieve. You'll dazzle others with your astute vision and ability. You will learn quickly and implement what you know with finesse. Networking will put you in the spotlight. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Show a little compassion when dealing with personal matters. You will face added responsibilities due to someone else's lack of foresight. Look for unique solutions and you can save the day. Arguing will be a waste of time. Focus on the positive. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Get together with friends, lovers or relatives, but keep it simple. Making unrealistic promises or thinking someone will honor an offer will lead to disappointment. An unusual idea will lead you in an interesting and satisfying direction. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Take a close look at how you portray who you are by the way you look. Make alterations that will encourage greater response from the people you work with. Set a standard for others to live up to. Don't give in to personal problems. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Use your imagination and you will find a way to execute a plan you've wanted to get off the ground for some time. Believe in who you are and what you are capable of doing. Speak with strength, courage and confidence. Be a leader. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You will need to incorporate discipline into the equation if you wish to reach your goals. Making changes can be good, but only if you are prepared to execute them properly. Do your research and refrain from trusting someone else's judgment. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Stand up and take note of what everyone else is doing. Implement your plan and you will make a difference that counts to someone or something you wholeheartedly believe in. Don't follow someone that is unpredictable. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't give in to someone using emotional blackmail or ulterior motives to persuade you to get involved in something that isn't in your best interest. Focus on home, family and protecting your future by making personal improvements. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Look, see and do. Set your goals, and don't stop until you reach your destination. You've got great ideas and your instincts are pushing you in the right direction. Good fortune, gifts or winning an emotional, financial or physical battle is in the stars. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are relentless. You play hard, work hard and strive for perfection.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			2		4			
	9			7			6	
7		3				5		2
1			6		5			3
	8						5	
9			4		3			7
5		9				4		8
	2			9			1	
			5		7			

Difficulty Level ★★ 11/20

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	1	8	7	5	4	9	2	6
5	7	2	3	6	9	1	4	8
4	6	9	1	2	8	5	3	7
6	9	1	2	3	5	7	8	4
2	4	5	8	1	7	6	9	3
8	3	7	9	4	6	2	1	5
7	2	4	5	9	3	8	6	1
9	5	3	6	8	1	4	7	2
1	8	6	4	7	2	3	5	9

Difficulty Level ★ 11/19

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FRIENDSHIPS ARE SPECIAL Solution: 5 letters

R	R	H	E	E	R	U	C	(E)	S	H	A	R	E	T
E	E	O	M	D	C	E	(V)	R	E	N	T	R	A	P
S	M	L	P	I	E	(O)	T	C	R	I	S	I	S	A
P	I	I	A	R	(L)	H	N	H	E	L	P	F	U	L
E	N	D	T	T	O	E	S	F	G	I	F	T	S	S
C	I	A	H	O	I	T	S	I	[	U	N	I	T	E
T	S	Y	Y	T	L	O	E	T	R	D	A	G	E	S
F	C	S	A	A	E	E	N	C	O	E	E	L	V	D
U	E	P	D	L	N	S	R	S	T	N	H	N	A	E
L	S	H	E	K	D	E	A	A	H	O	E	C	C	F
O	O	A	T	S	I	C	E	D	N	I	D	S	A	E
Y	L	S	O	H	N	R	D	E	V	T	P	N	T	N
A	C	E	V	O	G	E	S	E	V	I	G	S	I	D
L	R	S	E	P	U	T	T	P	E	C	C	A	O	K
S	B	U	D	D	Y	S	E	U	L	A	V	E	N	T

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Accept, Advice, Ages, Buddy, Cherished, Close, Confidence, Crisis, Dear, Defend, Devoted, Empathy, Gifts, Give, Helpful, Holidays, Honesty, Kind, Laughter, Lending, Love, Loyal, Milestones, Pals, Partner, Patience, Phases, Protect, Relationships, Reminisce, Respectful, Secrets, Secure, Share, Shop, Talks, Tolerant, Unite, Vacation, Values

Yesterday's Answer: Auditor

The WONDERWORD MILLENIUM SERIES is ready for ordering, starting this month and ending in 2013. Each book is 8½" x 11" and contains 240 pages of puzzles including 365 word searches, 52 Sunday puzzles, and 13 bonus puzzles. Send your check or money order for $14.95 per book (plus $3.00 shipping and handling) to: Millennium Series, c/o Universal Uclick, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106. Or call toll-free 1-800-345-6980. Orders will be shipped via Media Mail. Allow 2 to 3 weeks for delivery. Offer valid in the U.S. only.

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EMPLOYMENT

Baker. Experienced in baking breads, cakes, pizza & pastries. Please call 287-6532.

(1) General Maintenance. Salary $5.55/hr. If interested please call Tinian Express Corp. at 285-7445 for more info.

Security Monitor. 2yrs exp.oper CCTV, Required Police Clearance and 2 latest Employers references. Mail resume: POB 7523 or email: msc@marianassecurity.com.

Building Maintenance (1)–knowledge of carpentry and electrical work. Apply at Kanda International, Inc. P.O. Box 503275. Tel. 235-2505.

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Need cash fast??? We want to buy your OnePass miles or Skymiles!!! Call 888-2205.

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2 Bedroom Apartment for Rent. For $200.00 / month. Koblerville, please call 288-0728.

Fina Sisu Apt., 1-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $250/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $450-$550/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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$100 Security Deposit Required
Garapan • Susupe • San Antonio
Some conditions may apply

Vacancy Announcement

(1) Accounting Clerk – At least 5 yrs experience. Proficient in various computer software: MS Excel, Word, Peach Tree & Oracle Accounting Software.

(1) Graphic Artist – Bachelors Degree in Fine Arts. 5 years experience. Proficient in Illustrator/Photoshop CS5.

Submit Application to Saipan Apparel.
Tel. 235-1680

POI Aviation invites qualified US workers to apply for the following position:

Accountant

Associate's Degree in Finance or Accounting with at least 3 years work related experience in financial management and/or payroll and general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivables and payable management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system and MS Excel, Word and Power Point software. Must be able to work under time pressure and must work flexible hours. CPA not required.

Deadline: November 23, 2012
For details, please contact the Human Resources Office at 288-0360.

Equal Employment Opportunity Employer

HIMAWARI SAIPAN INC.
For Immediate Hiring

• Japanese Cook
• Sushi Cook

At least 5 years experience in cutting fish and making sushi.

For more details, call Mr. Suzuki at 233-1530

WANTED TO HIRE

WAITER/WAITRESS
- Must be a U.S. Citizen
- Must be 21 yrs. old & above
- 2 years work related experience required

COOK
2 years work related experience required
- CW1 is accepted

Walk-in applicants only, with picture.
No phone calls.
Deadline: November 23, 2012

Country House/ Moby Dick Restaurant

Looking for a way to tell everyone about your business?

You're looking at it!

Saipan Tribune **235-6397**

CHONG'S CORPORATION
Job Vacancy Announcement

Four (4) TECHNICIANS-AIR CONDITIONING & REFRIGERATION
- Install, service and repair of Central Air-conditioning, Refrigeration and Ventilation Systems
- Repair and service of Chilled Water Air-conditioning System
- Perform repair and trouble analysis of VAV and VVT Control Systems
- Perform Computer based Control System

Other Requirements:
- Minimum 10-year work experience required
- EPA Section 608 & R-410A Certifications required
- Maintenance Technician & Electrical Safety Course in Accordance with 29CFR 1910 Standard Certification required
- Must possess good communication skill

E-mail resume to chongs@pticom.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

MISA ENTERPRISES, INC.

ASSISTANT MANAGER (1): Be able to assist the General Manager in the supervision of the business establishment such as: Management of financial books, rental client agreement, building maintenance such as answering tenants' complain & resolve problems. Confer with manager to review financial statements, activity reports and other performance data to determine areas needing cost reduction and improvement. Allocate funds; authorize expenditures necessary for building maintenance. Delegate authority and assign responsibilities to designate personnel for building maintenance, be able to present written & oral reports on the company's financial and operational status. Other related duties as Assistant Manager.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to provide current police clearance. With reliable transportation and must agree to drug test.

Applicants of position listed above are required to have a minimum of 3-5 years experience. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant, MISA Building 4, Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan. No phone calls.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Yano Enterprises, Inc.

General Maintenance (2): Must have a valid CNMI driver's license and flexible in work hours. Duties may involve skills in electrical, plumbing, carpentry, masonry, painting, landscape or maintain grounds of property using hand or power tools or equipment. Can typically perform variety of task such as sod laying, mowing, trimming, planting, watering, fertilizing, digging, raking and installing, repairing buildings, floors or stairs.

Chief Cook (1): Must be experienced in supervising and coordinating orders, operations and other cooks. Must be able to inspect and standardize raw & cooked food as well as the presentation of dishes. Be able to develop innovative recipes & menus of Japanese cuisine which take in factors such as seasonal availability of ingredients & customer orientation & pax.

Cook (1): Must be experienced & skilled in preparing Japanese cuisine including but not limited to sushi, sashimi, & tempura. Can prepare all menu items according to quantity menus. Must be able to maintain kitchen & observe safety & sanitary food handling practices as well as other related duties.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test.

Applicants of positions listed above are required to have a minimum of 3-5 years experience. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant I Garapan, Hotel Street. No phone calls.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) COMMERCIAL CLEANER

High school diploma, minimum 5 years prior hotel experience. Keep premises clean and orderly condition. Use of power equipment/hand tools, transport linens, supplies, and making up beds and perform other duties described as a cleaner. Police clearance required. $ 5.55/hr. Interested applicants can apply at the Aquarius Beach Tower, 110 Beach Road. Applications must be submitted by November 23rd.

No phone calls please.

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Schaub rallies Texans past Jaguars, 43-37

HOUSTON(AP)—Andre Johnson caught a screen pass from Matt Schaub and ran 48 yards for the winning touchdown in overtime as the Houston Texans rallied to beat Jacksonville 43-37 on Sunday.

Schaub threw a career-high five touchdown passes, completed a franchise-record 43 passes and finished with 527 yards passing, second most in NFL history. Warren Moon also threw for 527 yards for the Houston Oilers in December 1990 against Kansas City.

Norm Van Brocklin holds the record with 554 for the Rams in 1951.

Johnson caught 14 passes for 273 yards, both career highs. The Texans (9-1) won an overtime game for the first time at Reliant Stadium.

Chad Henne threw a career-high four touchdown passes in relief of injured Blaine Gabbert for the Jaguars (1-9). Rookie Justin Blackmon had 236 yards receiving.

AP

Houston Texans quarterback Matt Schaub (8) and Keshawn Martin (82) celebrates a touchdown during the first quarter of an NFL football game against the Jacksonville Jaguars Sunday, Nov. 18, 2012, in Houston.

Falcons 23, Cardinals 19

In Atlanta, Matt Ryan overcame a career-worst five interceptions, guiding Atlanta to its only offensive touchdown in the fourth quarter in a sloppy win.

The Falcons (9-1) turned it over a total of six times, but Michael Turner scored on a 1-yard run with 6:40 remaining to give Atlanta its first lead of the game. Ryan set up the score with four completions for 64 yards, including a 9-yarder to Tony Gonzalez on third-and-5 at the Arizona 10.

Coming off a bye, Arizona (4-6) lost its sixth straight game. The Cardinals tried to bolster their anemic offense by switching quarterbacks, replacing John Skelton with rookie Ryan Lindley, but Larry Fitzgerald couldn't hang on to a fourth-down pass after Ryan's fifth pick.

Packers 24, Lions 20

In Detroit, Aaron Rodgers threw two touchdown passes, including a 22-yarder to Randall Cobb with 1:55 left to lift Green Bay.

Mason Crosby made a 39-yard field goal with 19 seconds to go after missing two field goals earlier in the game.

Matthew Stafford couldn't put the Lions ahead on either of their last two drives in a game he'd like to forget.

Stafford threw two interceptions—one of which was returned 72 yards by Green Bay safety M.D. Jennings for a go-ahead score in the third quarter—and lost a fumble.

Green Bay (7-3) has won five straight and Detroit (4-6) has dropped two in a row.

Cowboys 23, Browns 20, OT

In Arlington, Texas, Dan Bailey kicked a 38-yard field goal in overtime and Dallas overcame a critical fumble by Tony Romo that sparked a wild ending.

Bailey's winning kick with 6:07 remaining in OT came after both teams punted once in the first overtime game at Cowboys Stadium. Bailey hit a tying 32-yard field goal with 2 seconds left in regulation.

Dallas (5-5) rallied from a 13-0 halftime deficit and went ahead 17-13 on Romo's 28-yard pass to Dez Bryant.

A fumble by Browns rookie Brandon Weeden on a sack appeared to put the Cowboys in control, but Romo gave it right back with a fumble on another sack.

The Cowboys made one goal-line stand in the final minutes, but the Browns got another chance and went ahead 20-17 on Weeden's 17-yard pass to Benjamin Watson.

Buccaneers 27, Panthers 21, OT

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Josh Freeman threw a 15-yard touchdown pass to Dallas Clark in overtime to cap a comeback.

It was Freeman's third touchdown pass of the game for the Buccaneers (6-4).

Carolina appeared to have the game in hand after a 29-yard touchdown pass from Cam Newton to Brandon LaFell put the Panthers (2-8) up 21-10 with 4:34 left in the game. But after a 40-yard field goal by Connor Barth, the Panthers were forced to punt, and Freeman led the Bucs 80 yards on seven plays in 50 seconds with no timeouts.

He finished the drive with a 24-yard touchdown pass to Vincent Jackson between three defenders with 12 seconds left. Freeman went back to Jackson for a 2-point conversion on a slant route to send the game into overtime.

Ravens 13, Steelers 10

In Pittsburgh, Jacoby Jones returned a punt for a touchdown, Justin Tucker kicked two field goals and Baltimore took control of the AFC North with a victory over Pittsburgh.

The Ravens (8-2) moved two games in front of the Steelers (6-4) by shutting down Pittsburgh's offense, which sputtered without injured quarterback Ben Roethlisberger.

Byron Leftwich, making his first start in more than three years, completed 18 of 39 passes for 201 yards and an interception. He ran for a score but was also sacked three times.

Baltimore's Joe Flacco wasn't much better, completing 20 of 32 passes for 164 yards, but the Ravens didn't need Flacco to dominate to beat the Steelers for the third straight time at Heinz Field.

Patriots 59, Colts 24

In Foxborough, Massachusetts, the Patriots used three scoring passes from Tom Brady, two touchdowns on interception returns and another on a punt return to match a team single-game scoring record.

He first matchup between three-time Super Bowl winner Brady and star rookie Andrew Luck was no match.

The Patriots (7-3) won their fourth straight game and extended their lead in the AFC East to three games. The Colts (6-4) had their four-game winning streak stopped by the NFL's best offense and one of its worst defenses.

This win was the Patriots' most complete in a season in which they've averaged 35.8 points per game and lost their three games by a combined margin of four points.

The 59 points equals the team mark set in a 59-0 win over the Tennessee Titans on Oct. 18, 2009.

Saints 38, Raiders 17

In Oakland, California, Drew Brees threw three touchdown passes and Malcolm Jenkins returned an interception for another score to get the Saints back to .500.

Lance Moore caught two touchdown passes and Mark Ingram ran for a score as the Saints (5-5) won for the fifth time in six games and are in position to make a late-season playoff run despite the season-long distraction from the bounty scandal.

The Raiders (3-7) lost their third straight game under first-year coach Dennis Allen as their banged-up defense got picked apart by Brees' precision passing. Oakland has allowed 135 points in those defeats, the most in a three-game span for the franchise since allowing 141 in the first three games in 1961.

Brees finished 20 for 27 for 219 yards, extending his own records by throwing a touchdown in his 53rd straight game and completing 20 passes for the 46th straight game.

Broncos 30, Chargers 23

In Denver, Peyton Manning threw for three touchdowns and Von Miller had three sacks to take the league lead with 13. Denver took a three-game lead in the AFC West by sweeping the Chargers.

Manning threw for 270 yards. He got off to a slow start, throwing an interception that Eric Weddle returned for a score and an early 7-0 lead. But the Broncos (7-3) took a 10-7 lead early in the second quarter and never trailed again.

Manning won his 148th regular-season game as a starting quarterback, tying John Elway for second on the all-time list. Brett Favre has 186.

The Chargers (4-6) lost for the fifth time in six games.

Redskins 31, Eagles 6

In Landover, Maryland, Robert Griffin III threw four touchdown passes, and Washington broke a three-game losing streak.

Griffin completed 14 of 15 passes for 200 yards and also ran 11 times for 85 yards. He threw for scores of 6, 49, 61 and 17 yards — one in each quarter.

Philadelphia's Nick Foles was 21 for 46 for 204 yards in his first NFL start, and his first two series ended with interceptions. Foles was starting in place of Michael Vick, who suffered a concussion in last week's loss to the Dallas Cowboys.

The Redskins improved to 4-6. The Eagles (3-7) have dropped six straight, accelerating the countdown toward the possible end of Andy Reid's 14-year tenure as coach.

Jets 27, Rams 13

In St. Louis, Mark Sanchez directed a turnover-free offense and Bilal Powell ran for the first two touchdowns of his career as the Jets ended a three-game losing streak.

Chaz Schilens scored on a 25-yard reception and Nick Folk kicked a pair of 51-yard field goals for the Jets (4-6), who were outscored 58-16 the previous two games. The Jets overcame a controversial practice week with several anonymous players quoted in a newspaper report disparaging the ability of backup quarterback Tim Tebow, who had a handful of snaps but was no factor.

Brandon Gibson caught a pair of short touchdown passes for the Rams (3-6-1), who committed three turnovers and are in an 0-4-1 slump. St. Louis' defense hasn't forced a turnover in five straight games, tying the NFL's longest such slump since 1950 according to STATS LLC.

Bengals 28, Chiefs 6

In Kansas City, Missouri, Andy Dalton threw for 230 yards and accounted for three touchdowns and A.J. Green caught a touchdown pass in his ninth straight game.

Green finished with six catches for 91 yards in another dazzling performance, Mohamed Sanu had a scoring grab and BenJarvus Green-Ellis ran for 101 yards and a touchdown as the Bengals (5-5) won their second straight following a four-game losing streak.

Cincinnati now plays its next four games against teams with losing records.

Jamaal Charles had 87 yards rushing for Kansas City (1-9), but that was the only highlight for a team that lost its seventh straight amid a quiet crowd at Arrowhead Stadium.

Tigers, Torii Hunter finalize 2-year, $26M deal

DETROIT (AP)—Torii Hunter has reached the postseason six times in his career, but he's never played in a World Series.

Now he's joining forces with the defending AL champion Detroit Tigers—a team that's come close to winning baseball's ultimate prize each of the last two years.

"To win it all, they're just like me. They don't know what it feels like," Hunter said. "If there's no failure, there's no progress. These guys are hungry for it."

The Tigers introduced Hunter on Friday after finalizing their $26 million, two-year deal with the free agent outfielder. The 37-year-old hit a career-best .313 last season for the Los Angeles Angels with 16 home runs and 92 RBIs, and when he went on the open market, he began eyeing Detroit right away.

The Tigers have won the AL Central the last two years, but they're still chasing the franchise's first World Series title since 1984. Detroit was one step away last season but lost the Series to San Francisco in a four-game sweep.

Lakers rip Rockets for 4th win in 5 games

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kobe Bryant had 22 points, 11 rebounds and 11 assists for his 18th career triple-double, and the revitalized Los Angeles Lakers ran past the Houston Rockets 119-108 Sunday night for their fourth victory in five games since firing coach Mike Brown.

Dwight Howard had 28 points and 13 rebounds, and Pau Gasol scored his 15,000th career point among his 17 as the Lakers returned to .500 by running away from their second straight opponent since coach Mike D'Antoni took over their practices.

D'Antoni watched his second straight game from the Lakers' locker room while interim coach Bernie Bickerstaff ran the bench. D'Antoni decided earlier Sunday to delay his debut, giving him a few more days to recover from recent knee replacement surgery.

Chandler Parsons scored 24 and James Harden 20 for the Rockets, who have lost six of eight.

Bickerstaff improved to 4-1 while filling in for Brown and D'Antoni, who announced the longtime NBA coach and executive will remain on his staff.

Thunder 119, Warriors 109

In Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant notched his first career triple-double with 25 points, 13 rebounds and a career-high 10 assists to lead Oklahoma City past Golden State.

The three-time NBA scoring champion has endured some growing pains this season trying to improve his floor game, with a bump in his assist number coinciding with an increase in his turnovers, too. He came in averaging four turnovers per game, the fourth-worst in the league.

He turned it over just twice in this one.

Stephen Curry led the Warriors with 22 points and David Lee had 19 points and 10 rebounds.

Russell Westbrook had 30 points and Kevin Martin scored 23 for Oklahoma City.

Knicks 88, Pacers 76

In New York, Carmelo Anthony had 26 points and nine rebounds to help New York bounce back from its first loss of the season with a win over Indiana.

JR Smith added 13 points and Raymond Felton had 11 for the Knicks in their only home appearance over a span of seven games. After falling 105-95 at Memphis on Friday, the Knicks (7-1) go right back on the road to start another three-game trip Tuesday in New Orleans.

In a game that was ugly, neither team shot 40 percent, but the Knicks built a big early lead, went up by as much as 20 and were never challenged.

Paul George scored 20 points Indiana, which played without leading scorer Danny Granger.

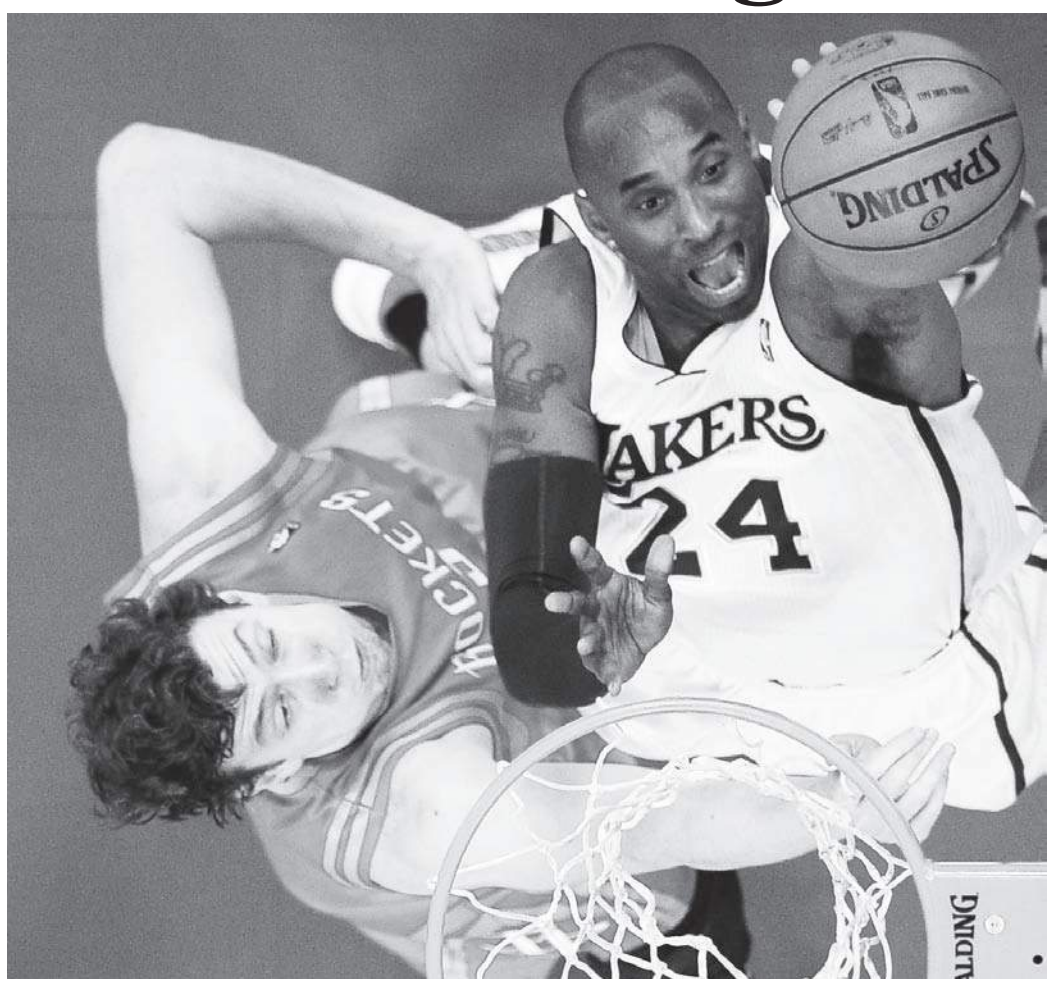
Nets 99, Kings 90

In Sacramento, California, reserve forward Andray Blatche scored 22 points to lead Brooklyn over Sacramento for its fifth straight win.

The Nets (6-2) matched the team's best start since the 2002-03 season when they went to the NBA finals, losing to San Antonio in six games.

Deron Williams had 14 points and 10 assists for the Nets, whose longest winning streak last season was three games. MarShon Brooks had nine of his 14 points in the fourth quarter, Brook Lopez had 13 points and four blocks, and CJ Watson had 13 points for Brooklyn.

DeMarcus Cousins had 29 points for the Kings, who have dropped five straight.



AP

Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant, right, puts up a shot as Houston Rockets center Omer Asik, of Turkey, defends during the first half of their NBA basketball game against the Houston Rockets, Sunday, Nov. 18, 2012, in Los Angeles.

Raptors 97, Magic 86

In Toronto, DeMar DeRozan scored 20 points and Amir Johnson had 14 of his 15 points in the fourth quarter to lead Toronto over slumping Orlando.

Andrea Bargnani had 17 points, Linas Kleiza scored 10 of his 12 points in the fourth and Jose Calderon had a season-high 18 assists for the Raptors, who had lost six of their previous seven home meetings with Orlando.

Glen Davis led the Magic with 16 points and 12 rebounds, E'Twuan Moore scored 16 points and Arron Afflalo had 15. Nikola Vucevic had 12 points and six rebounds, ending his streak of three straight double-doubles.

76ers 86, Cavaliers 79

In Philadelphia, Evan Turner had 19 points and nine assists to lead Philadelphia over reeling Cleveland.

Spencer Hawes and Jrue Holiday each added 14 points for the Sixers, who've won two straight and five of seven.

Alonzo Gee scored 17 and Anderson Varejao and Tristan Thompson had 14 apiece for Cleveland, which has lost six in a row. Kyrie Irving and Dion Waiters combined for 14 points on 6-for-27 shooting. They came in averaging a combined 39.1 points, a league-best for a starting backcourt.

The Cavaliers had won eight of their last 10 games in Philadelphia.

Pistons 103, Celtics 83

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Greg Monroe had 20 points and 13 rebounds, Jason Maxiell added 15 points and Detroit beat Boston for its first home win of the season.

The Pistons (2-9) had blown double-digit leads in each of their first three home games, but the Celtics, playing their fourth game in five nights, hit only four 3-pointers and trailed by as many as 22 points.

Jared Sullinger had 16 points and Kevin Garnett 15 for Boston. Rajon Rondo finished with 10 assists to extend his double-digit streak to 34 games, the third longest in league history. Magic Johnson had a 46-game streak in 1983-84 and John Stockton had a 37-game run in 1989.

Blazers 102, Bulls 94

In Portland, Oregon, Wesley Matthews and Nicolas Batum scored 21 points apiece as Portland beat Chicago for its first-three-game winning streak since opening last season 3-0.

LaMarcus Aldridge added 18 points and 13 rebounds for Portland.

After trailing by as many as 15 in the third quarter, the Bulls tied it at 73 early in the fourth. But Portland pulled back in front 87-75 on Matthews' pull-up jumper with 5:04 left.

Nate Robinson hit a 3 to narrow it to 98-94 with 13.9 seconds to go, but Batum and Aldridge each hit a pair of free throws to help the Blazers hang on.

Joakim Noah had 16 points, 15 rebounds and eight assists for Chicago.

Lakers coach Mike D'Antoni delays bench debut

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mike D'Antoni postponed his debut on the Los Angeles Lakers' bench for at least another game Sunday night, giving the coach a few more days to recover from recent knee replacement surgery.

D'Antoni tentatively planned to take over when the Lakers hosted Houston, exactly a week after the Lakers hired him to replace Mike Brown. Instead, Lakers trainer Gary Vitti and D'Antoni's wife persuaded him to wait until he can move around a bit better on his new knee.

"I'm anxious to get out there and ready to go, but I don't want to be a sideshow," D'Antoni said.

Interim coach Bernie Bickerstaff led the Lakers against the Rockets. The Lakers went 3-1 in their first week under Bickerstaff, and D'Antoni announced he'll keep the veteran coach on his staff.

D'Antoni has been getting around without crutches for short distances since he arrived in Los Angeles last week, but the 61-year-old former Knicks and Suns coach isn't his usual spry self yet. He has attended two workouts with the Lakers, circling the court on crutches and sitting down whenever possible, but finally had to acknowledge he would have trouble on an NBA bench.

"My wife said, `Why are you doing this?'" D'Antoni said. "And I kept being headstrong. (Vitti) kind of sat me down and said, `Mike, this is crazy. Somebody comes over, you're going to be bowled over. You're a sitting duck.'

"And I know my coaches aren't real nimble, so there's no way they're protecting me. They're hitting the streets. It was the smart thing to do."

The Lakers formally announced they had hired Dan D'Antoni, the head coach's older brother, as an assistant coach before Sunday's game. Mike D'Antoni also said he plans to keep Bickerstaff, the longtime NBA coach and executive who joined Brown's staff in September.

"Bernie is a great coach and good guy," D'Antoni said. "I've known him forever. It just means the world. He does a super job. ... He's (on the staff permanently), yeah. Unless he loses tonight."

D'Antoni then smiled broadly.

Bickerstaff hadn't formally been told he was sticking around when he spoke to reporters moments after D'Antoni. Bickerstaff joked that the Lakers should be told that they were playing for his job.

"I think he and Steve Nash are waiting to make their debuts together," said Bickerstaff, who learned at the morning shootaround that his interim career would extend at least one more game.

Nash missed his eighth consecutive game Sunday with a small fracture in his leg that will keep him out until at least next weekend.

Although D'Antoni will speak to the Lakers before the game and again at halftime, he planned to watch his second straight game from the Lakers' locker room while getting therapy on his knee. He'll be joined by "the Steves,"—injured point guards Nash and Steve Blake.

"The hardest thing is to watch the game," D'Antoni said. "I'm trying to do my therapy and she's killing me, and then you're watching the game and you're suffering there. It's not easy, but we'll get through this."

The Lakers already have shown signs of D'Antoni's influence, playing two straight games at a speedy tempo they rarely used under Brown. Los Angeles scored more than 60 points in the first half Sunday night for the second straight game since D'Antoni's arrival, leading Houston 68-60 at halftime after making 67.4 percent of its shots.

Los Angeles hosts Brooklyn on Tuesday before heading out on a three-game trip beginning Wednesday night in Sacramento.

Gainey wins Pebble Beach Invitational

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. (AP)—Tommy Gainey made a three-foot birdie on the 18th hole, shooting a 3-under 69 for a one-stroke victory Sunday over Kirk Triplett and William McGirt at the Pebble Beach Invitational.

Gainey, known for wearing two black gloves while playing, finished at 11-under 277 after beginning the final round two shots behind overnight leader Robert Streb.

"I was looking at the scoreboard and I knew I needed the putt to win," said Gainey, who last month claimed his first PGA Tour win at the McCladrey Classic with a final-round 60. "I was glad it went in."

Triplett, the second-round co-leader, finished with a 68. McGirt, three shots off the lead after the third round, shot 69 in the finale of a tournament that features players from the PGA, LPGA, Champions and Web.com tours.

McGirt and Triplett, playing one group ahead of Gainey, both missed birdie attempts on the 18th to move to 11 under.

"I figured if I got to 10 under, I'd have a chance to win," said Triplett, who in July claimed his first Champions Tour victory at the First Tee Open at Pebble Beach.

Gainey, who earlier this season placed third at Crowne Plaza Invitational, hit his second shot on the par-5 18th into the left bunker. But he smoothly placed his third shot in position for the winning birdie.

"I am pretty good bunker player," said Gainey, who earned $60,000 of the $300,000 purse. "You can't ask for more than winning at Pebble Beach."

Billy Horschel, who finished with a 72, was alone at 9 under.

Tommy Armour III, who won the tournament in 2007 and 2008, finished at 8 under after a 70.

Streb moved to 13 under after four holes and held a three-shot margin over Gainey. But Streb quickly faltered, finished with a 76 and was grouped with Bryce Molder (68), John Cook (71) and James Hahn (73) at 6 under.

Hall of Famer Annika Sorenstam, playing a foursome that included Juli Inkster, shot a 69 and finished at 1 over.

"For me, there's just rust and not playing often," said Sorenstem, whose 289 total included an 81 at Spyglass Hill on Saturday. "That's when you notice the biggest difference."

Pacquiao learns to pace himself

By ROY LUARCA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Manny Pacquiao has finally realized the value of moderation.

Unlike before, when he trained with wild abandon and pushed himself to exhaustion, Pacquiao now listens to what his body says.

Entering the crucial phase of preparation for his fourth showdown with Juan Manuel Marquez on Dec. 8, Pacquiao has learned to turn the switch off for the day to give his 33-year-old body time to recuperate for tougher grinds ahead of the welterweight pay-per-view battle at MGM Grand Arena in Las Vegas.

"Before, it was always heavy training for me every day—morning and afternoon," Pacquiao told GMA-7's Chino Trinidad on Sunday (Monday in Manila) in Hollywood. "Now, I've learned to pace myself."

Pacquiao no longer asks trainer Freddie Roach for more rounds with the mitts and for other training regimen when he feels his body can't take any more pounding.

But when he's in-sync, of course, Pacquiao reverts to his old training ways—without letup—at Roach's Wild Card Gym.

While he has temporarily abandoned playing basketball these days, Pacquiao can't ignore the opportunity to shoot balls with NBA Hall of Famers and Olympic gold medalists Charles Barkley, now a noted NBA analyst, and former superstar Reggie Miller on Monday.

The 47-year-old Miller, the TNT network commentator for the NBA, even joined Pacquiao in his early-morning run at Griffith Park in Hollywood, according to a TMZ report.

Asked about their playground shoot-out, Miller said Pacquiao definitely got game. "Not only is he the man in the ring, but he's got an awesome jump shot too."

ROLLERS 1

From Page 28

couple of buckets in support from fellow tree trunk Emerson Feria as the group broke in front, 32-26, in the third period,

Proa postured a comeback at crunch time off 7 points by Javier, but Rollers 1 held down the fort, thanks in part to an early 3-pointer by Irvyn Malonzo who struggled finding his range earlier in the game. Still the point man did a good job protecting the ball as Factor provided the final blows to secure the win.

Factor led Rollers 1 with 11 points and received most valuable player honors in the finals, though Javier topped the field with a baker's dozen.

In the consolation match, Rollers 2 assumed control early, 12-8, as six different players hit the mark out of the gate.

Rollers 2's Jun Fidelino then took the floor and tallied 7 checks that stretched it to a 22-14 margin at intermission.

Rollers 2 continued to produce after the pause and would have pulled away if not for a couple of strikes from behind the arc by Hi-5's Elnathan Wong and Alan Akaya, though the former still established a comfortable 32-24 cushion heading into the final period.

Hi-5 benefited from Rollers 2 high scorer Fidelino on the bench and did not wilt late in the game. The underdogs squad threatened with a big rally in its final stand, but in the end Rollers 2's Mike Espinosa delivered six clutch baskets that thwarted the upset.

Fidelino's 17 points from the prior three quarters would ultimately set the bar. Hi-5's Carl Aldan came up just one basket short of eclipsing his mark.

CHAMPIONSHIP

Rollers 1 43 – Factor 11, Feria 8, Iglesias 8,Morales 6, Malonzo 5, Ano 3, De Luna 2.

Matson Consulting Proa 39 – Javier 13, De Leon 8, Pamintuan 8, Mendoza 5, Camacho 2, Manalili 2, Palacios 1.

Scoring by quarters: 10-10, 19-16, 32-26, 43-39.

CONSOLATION

Rollers 2 42 – Fidelino 17, Deocares 6, Espinosa 6, Cenir 5, Kwon 2, Darag 2, Ellama 2, Adama 1, Cadua 1.

Hi-5 38 – Aldan 15, Cruz 4, A Francisco 4, W Francisco 4, Wong 4, Okaya 3, Arciaga 2.

Scoring by quarters: 12-8, 22-14, 32-24, 42-38.

JERICHO

From Page 28

leg qualifier. In those six games, Cruz averaged close to 20 points per match and was cited by his coach, Leo Austria, as the most consistent player on the team, stepping up for the injured Eric Camson.

Cruz and his Falcons were gunning for the Final Four berth against UAAP finalist University of Sto. Tomas last night and results of the game were unavailable at press time. Incidentally, Cruz recorded his most points (33) in his UAAP debut season against the UST Tigers in September.

A win over UST would put the Falcons in the company of UAAP champion Ateneo, NCAA champion San Beda, and Cebu Schools Athletic Foundation, Inc. winner Southwestern University.

The PCCL is Cruz's second competition for the Falcons after completing his debut season in the UAAP. The former Marianas High School student, who represented the CNMI in the 2010 Micronesian Games and 2009 Oceania Basketball Tournament, also played in the 2012 University Games in Bacolod and powered the Falcons to a semis stint in the annual competition before losing to the Ateneo Blue Eagles.

Before the PCCL and Uni Games' basketball tournaments, the Falcons rookie stayed on Saipan for more than a week last month and helped conduct training sessions for the CNMI Junior Nationals' pool. While teaching the young Commonwealth cagers new tricks, Cruz also vowed to help them find collegiate teams in the Philippines if they decide to continue playing the sport.

WHISPERING

From Page 28

Negahr Rastguiy, Caitlin Tinney, Alisa Tatsral, Maile Aldrich, Ellie Epley, Maria Gregoire, Mia Hirsh, So Bin Cho, Shea Hartig, Jin Ju Thompson, Sam Ryu, Dominic Zedde, Talia Trianni, Amber Montenegro, Hana Lynn Nelson, Max and Kaden Church, Zion Okano, and Sally Lai, notched its eighth straight championship in the elementary division of the annual competition and also grabbed the junior high school crown.

The Jeff Race-coached team earned 209 points in the various races in the elementary division to beat rival Garapan Elementary School (169) and Saipan Community School (80). Whispering Palms' total was also the highest among the 16 participating schools.

Joining the Top 3 finishers in the elementary division contest were Gregorio T. Camacho (66 points), William S. Reyes (39), Saipan International School (26), Kagman (24), San Vicenter (24), Mt. Carmel (18), Oleai (13), Koblerville (10), Agape Christian School (5), Grace Christian Academy (5), Seventh Day Adventist (1), and Brilliant Star (1).

Then in the junior high school, Whispering Palms reclaimed the division title it lost to SCS last year after the former collected 59 points against the latter's 31. Hopwood Junior High School rounded out the Top 3 with its 27 markers.

Points were awarded based on how swimmers from each school finished the race. For the relay, 18 and 14 points were given to the first placer and runner-up. In the individual swims, the top finisher received 9 points, while the No. 2 to 8 finishers also earned points.

Whispering Palms got 54 markers in three relay races in the elementary division, 72 more points from 8 first place finishes and the rest from a couple of Top 5 best times. Montenegro, Villagomez, Hana Nelson, and Chloe Kosack teamed up in the girls 11 to 12's 200m freestyle relay and timed in at 3:41.10. Then in the boys division, Logan Mister, Zedde, Steven Goodwin, and Chambers submitted 3:15.93. The third relay swim (200m medley) that Whispering Palms joined had Mylan Goodwin, Thompson, Hartig, and Lai clocking in at 3:54.24.

In the junior high school division, the Terns gathered 36 points in the relay with the quartet of Rastguiy, Tatsral, Tinney, and Aldrich completing the girls 13 to 14's 200m freestyle relay in 3:17.68 and the team of Ramsey, Lee, McGuire, and Young posting 3:23.84 in the boys division.

Tatsral gave Whispering Palms 17 more points off her runner-up finishes in the 50m freestyle (1:06.45) and 100m breaststroke (2:36.01), while Rastguiy added 9 after topping the 50m freestyle event (40.47 seconds).

Meanwhile, results in the high school division of the meet held on Nov. 10 will be published later this week.

SHARKS

From Page 28

succumbing to a late pick-6 interception touchdown in the last frame of Nov. 10's first-ever 11-man tackle football game held in front of a crowd of over 300 spectators at Manila's Phil-Sports Complex Track & Oval Field.

"It was a good fight, though our offense did not perform up to our expectations. There is room for improvement in all aspects of the game really, but we're only getting started. We have every intention of continuing our effort of reestablishing tackle football in the CNMI," stated CFL chair and player-coach, John Blanco in an email last week.

Blanco also added that the Punishers and their fans were gracious hosts and that the group looks forward to playing them again next year on both turfs.

The Sharks played very well on defense and tallied three interceptions, although Punishers quarterback Mike Hoese did connect with his wide out G.J. Dy for a 20-yard touchdown pass in the first quarter.

Punishers kicker Dave Mouatt of Australia converted the initial extra point try, but had to kick it again because of a penalty during the attempt and missed so the scoreboard read, 6-0, early on in favor of the home team.

The Sharks answered in the second quarter with a 70-yard drive that ended with a 1-yard punch-in by Jeff Boyer. Sharks quarterback Josh Cutrell completed five out of six passes during the charge, but his two-point conversion attempt to the corner of the end zone sailed just a little too deep. The receiver managed to bring it down, but landed out of bounds.

Both teams came up empty in the third quarter and it remained locked at 6-all midway through the fourth quarter until Punishers strong safety Jai Merchant corralled a clutch 18-yard "Pick-6" interception return with seven minutes remaining in regulation that ultimately clinched the win.

The Sharks threatened in the time remaining and came about five yards away from pay dirt, but a QB sneak on fourth down was sniffed out by the Punishers' front line.

The Sharks later benefited from a late fumble by Punishers running back Will Yeh in the final minute, but could not breach the Punishers defense in the end.

The win marked the Punishers' fourth of the season. Its lone loss came to Guam's Miller-Lite Football League All-Stars who are coming to Saipan to take on the Sharks this coming Dec. 1.

The Sharks were held to a combined 27 yards rushing with a fumble and Boyer's touchdown. The group also struggled in the punting game and muffed a couple of kicks that only made it about 10 yards past the original line of scrimmage.

Lutrell completed nine of 25 passes for 116 yards and one interception.

Jerome Norita caught three of them for 37 yards; Syl Teregeyo nabbed one for 32 yards; Jermaine Catching came down with two for 28 yards; George Lieto caught two for 12 yards, and Jelani Tilipao snagged a 7-yarder.

On defense, Jaime Martinez recorded four tackles and a sack; Paul Camacho was credited with three tackles and a sack; Tilipao made one tackle, but notched a fumble force, a fumble recovery, and an interception that he returned for 20 yards; Teregeyo also bagged a fumble force and a pair of tackles; while Danny Agulto and Lieto each swiped an interception.

They played a clean game overall and were only called for one penalty.

Notably, the modified ground rules stipulated that teams could not attempt to block punts or extra point attempts. There were no kickoffs after scores and when kickoffs were executed, only two players were permitted to chase down the returners.

The field was also 10 yards shy of regulation and various official timeouts were gifted to both squads throughout the game.

Punishers' Merchant earned most valuable player honors after the game for his impressive performance.

Their do-it-all standout also played running back, wide receiver, linebacker, defensive back, and took the reins at quarterback during the final possession of the game and scampered for a clutch 20-yard first down as the Philippines ran out the clock.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	7	1	.875	–
Brooklyn	6	2	.750	1
Philadelphia	6	4	.600	2
Boston	6	5	.545	2 1/2
Toronto	3	7	.300	5

Southeast Division

Miami	8	3	.727	–
Charlotte	4	4	.500	2 1/2
Atlanta	4	4	.500	2 1/2
Orlando	3	6	.333	4
Washington	0	8	.000	6 1/2

Central Division

Milwaukee	6	2	.750	–
Chicago	5	5	.500	2
Indiana	4	7	.364	3 1/2
Cleveland	2	8	.200	5
Detroit	2	9	.182	5 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Memphis	8	1	.889	–
San Antonio	8	2	.800	1/2
Dallas	6	5	.545	3
Houston	4	6	.400	4 1/2
New Orleans	3	5	.375	4 1/2

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	8	3	.727	–
Minnesota	5	4	.556	2
Portland	5	5	.500	2 1/2
Utah	5	6	.455	3
Denver	4	6	.400	3 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	7	2	.778	–
L.A. Lakers	5	5	.500	2 1/2
Golden State	5	5	.500	2 1/2
Phoenix	4	7	.364	4
Sacramento	2	8	.200	5 1/2

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

New England	7	3	0	.700	358	225
N.Y. Jets	4	6	0	.400	202	241
Buffalo	4	6	0	.400	230	299
Miami	4	6	0	.400	187	205

South

Houston	9	1	0	.900	293	180
Indianapolis	6	4	0	.600	210	260
Tennessee	4	6	0	.400	219	311
Jacksonville	1	9	0	.100	164	289

North

Baltimore	8	2	0	.800	267	206
Pittsburgh	6	4	0	.600	217	190
Cincinnati	5	5	0	.500	248	237
Cleveland	2	8	0	.200	189	234

West

Denver	7	3	0	.700	301	212
San Diego	4	6	0	.400	232	221
Oakland	3	7	0	.300	208	322
Kansas City	1	9	0	.100	152	284

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

N.Y. Giants	6	4	0	.600	267	216
Dallas	5	5	0	.500	211	224
Washington	4	6	0	.400	257	254
Philadelphia	3	7	0	.300	162	252

South

Atlanta	9	1	0	.900	270	193
Tampa Bay	6	4	0	.600	287	230
New Orleans	5	5	0	.500	287	273
Carolina	2	8	0	.200	184	243

North

Chicago	7	2	0	.778	242	133
Green Bay	7	3	0	.700	263	207
Minnesota	6	4	0	.600	238	221
Detroit	4	6	0	.400	236	246

West

San Francisco	6	2	1	.722	213	127
Seattle	6	4	0	.600	198	161
Arizona	4	6	0	.400	163	196
St. Louis	3	6	1	.350	174	237

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Oleai Sports Complex shuts down for over 2 months

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Department of Sports & Recreation director Jojo Attao last Friday announced that the Oleai Sports Complex will be closed to the public from early December 2012 through February 2013 due to a contract made between the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and the LG Twins.

The LG Twins is a professional baseball team from South Korea that essentially bought the rights to using the complex for its spring training program.

As of last Friday, Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios and Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan baseball fields were closed because they are undergoing unspecified renovations, and starting Sunday, Dec. 2 the entire complex will be off-limits to the public through Dec. 23, where it will reopen for a brief period before closing again at the turn of the calendar year from Jan. 1 to Feb. 9, 2013.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Division of Sports and Recreation announced Friday that the Oleai Sports Complex will be closed to the public for two months to accommodate South Korean professional baseball team LG Twins.

Saipan Tribune officially received the announcements of the closing last Friday.

This means that the public will not be granted access to the basketball court, soccer fields, nor the track and field because the LG Twins have been issued use of the facilities, exclusively.

The Basketball Association of the NMI, the Saipan Major League Baseball Association, the NMI Football Association among other various local groups routinely use the Oleai Sports Complex for adult and youth events, and according to Attao he has not received any negative feedback as of last Friday.

In perhaps a rehearsed response, Attao shrugged off any criticism, saying that he never received any complaints about the closings despite the announcement not being officially communicated until last weekend. He did disclose, however, that local sports organizers were somehow aware of the closings before last Friday and had thus scheduled their activities to wrap up before the initial closing date.

When asked about specifics of the contract agreement and a further explanation as to how the decision of closing off the public facility to the public, Attao refereed the *Saipan Tribune* to DCCA Secretary Melvin Faisao.

The media release lists Attao as the contact person to obtain more information. He can be reached at (670)-664-2508.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Wild Bill's Shark Attack, left, will go up against Jonny's Bar & Grill's Team SCS for the championship of the Saipan Billiards Association's Thursday Bud Cup Division.

3-time champion IT&E Voyagers take home Budweiser Cup

After coming up short on a sweep last season, Saipan Billiards Association's three-time defending Budweiser Open 8-Ball League champion IT&E Voyagers rose to the occasion this time around and finished on top after conclusion of last Tuesday's 15th Budweiser Cup postseason tournament.

The IT&E Voyagers triumphed in dominating fashion over the fifth-seeded Triggers, 9-1, in the SBA's Tuesday division finals held at Bammy's Restaurant & Bar.

Meanwhile, the Thursday division Bud Cup semifinals resulted in an upset by fourth-ranked Shark Attack which dethroned the 19th Hole Bar's top contender Titans I, 9-7, at home in Wild Bill's Bar & Grill.

Shark Attack will be paired against Jonny's Bar & Grill's fifth place Team SCS which bumped off 19th Hole's caboose team Eagles, 9-7, on the road.

The Thursday final will be played next on Nov. 29 at Jonny's.

In addition, SBA's awards banquet is scheduled for Dec. 2 in Charley's Cabaret at Pacific Island Club. Doors open at 10am. ***(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)***

3rd QQ Rent-A-Car caging eye Dec. 15 opening

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

QQ Rent-A-Car is accepting submissions for interested teams to appear in the third edition of its QQ Rent-A-Car Basketball League where a hefty cash prize of $1,000 goes to the overall champions.

Two-time reigning league champions Mobil will be returning to defend its title, while seven slots are still open to the first contenders who pay their entrance fees in full.

The tentative starting date is slated for Dec. 15 at the Garapan Basketball Court.

The entrance fee is set at $500 and rosters are limited to 12 players per squad, of which only five Unified Basketball Association A-level players are allowed on each team.

Notably, league organizers will hold a technical meeting on Dec. 10 to go over special ground rules.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

High-scoring guard Jun Estolas, seen here in a file photo, will again lead Mobil's charge in the QQ caging which unfolds next month at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Upon the targeted opening night, two-game features will take place from thereon on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays on Garapan court.

The Top 3 place finishers will receive trophies in addition to an array of special individual and team awards at the end of the season.

Opening night will feature a parade of all the teams in addition to crowning winners in the Best Uniforms and Best Muse categories.

Mobil will be featured in the curtain raiser and its opponent, and the second matchup will be determined via a random drawing opening night.

Contact QQ's James Han at 483-8866 or Marlon Sison at 235-0247 or email marlon.sison@winchellsguam.com for more information.

Tudela, Sablan top Amigo October, November tourneys

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Amigo Golf Club's Joe Tudela and Frank Sablan each received ace of the month honors after the conclusion of the group's recent October and November tournaments held at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo.

Tudela came from behind to seize the October plum, while Sablan walked the line to win November's berth into the association's season finale Ace of Aces Tournament slated in late December.

Sablan

The couple joins January Ace's Joe Sablan Jr., February's Doll Yamagishi, March's Ben Jones Sr., April's Ben Jones Jr., May's Lorraine Babauta, June's Terry Guerrero, July's Felix Sasamoto, August's Diding Hocog, and Septmeber's Sherlyn Jones.

Only six competitors turned out in Oct. 7's qualifying round, of which just three were actually vying for an ace title.

The weather conditions added an extra challenge for the trio, where in the end, Tudela finished in between rival contenders Frank Guerrero and John Guerrero with a gross score of 86 that was adjusted into a 73.

Frank Guerrero finished with an 88 raw card that was trimmed down to a 71 net total, while John Guerrero matched Tudela's gross-mark of 86, but settled for a net tally of 75.

Then in Oct. 21's final round, John Guerrero was unable to attend and thus Tudela and Frank Guerrero battled it out in a head-to-head duel with six past aces coming along for the ride.

Tudela improved his initial score by a handful in the clutch and jotted down an 81 gross total that factored into a 68 net count for a combined net-total of 141, while Frank Guerrero was in a funk from the start, and despite a hefty handicap of 17, came up way short. He ended up with a 95 raw score that left him with a combined net total of 149.

November's affair also featured three aspiring ace qualifiers.

The qualifying round back on Nov. 4 resulted in Frank Sablan taking an early lead with an 80 gross score that was shaved down to a 72 net total.

Just three strokes behind him came John Guerrero who recorded an 86 raw tally that was cut down to a 75 net total, while Frank Guerrero penciled in a 95 gross card that was adjusted into a 77 net score.

It was still anybody's game heading into the Nov. 11 final round, but Sablan had ice in his veins under the hot blistering sun and put on an impressive display of consistency to hold off the opposition.

Considering the conditions, Sablan finished with a respectable gross score of 89 for a net total of 81 and a combined net sum of 143 and outshone the competition by four strokes.

John Guerrero gave his all, but fell short yet again, and settled for an 83 raw total, and 72 net figure, for a combined net total of 147.

Third placer Frank Guerrero end up with an even 90 gross mark that was melted down to a 72 net result for a combined net tally of 149; 10 players made up November's qualifying field and eight turned out for the final round.

The December ace qualifier commences this Sunday with the final round scheduled for Nov. 25. Both events will be held at Kingfisher Golf Links.

Show time for both events is set for 11am with a noon tee off.

The Ace of Aces winner will be awarded a hefty cash prize in addition to overall bragging rights for the year. They also get to have their name inscribed on the club's perpetual trophy, which they can keep until it is handed off to next season's winner.

As a reminder to all members, and especially ace qualifiers, full payment of the club's membership dues is required prior to the start of the Ace of Aces tournament in order to be eligible to compete. Failure to pay the fees will also disqualify players from claiming prizes at the awards banquet.

For more information, contact John Guerrero at 287-6352, Joe Sablan Jr. at 322-1177, or Lorraine Babauta at 989-7732.

Schaub rallies Texans past Jaguars, 43-37

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Sports

Lakers rip Rockets for 4th win in 5 games

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Rollers 1 completes perfect season in U16

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Rollers 1 finished the 21st Annual Rotary Club of Saipan Youth Basketball League U16 division undefeated after holding off Matson Consulting Proa, 43-39, in the championship match last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

In addition, its counterparts Rollers 2 clipped Hi-5, 42-38, in the consolation pairing that preceded the main event.

Rollers 1 is comprised of Jeron Ano, Jed Cudia, Adrian De Luna, Emerson Feria Prince Factor, Brylan Floresca, John Paul Iglesias, Irvyn Malonzo, C.J. Morales, Keolani and Kyle Rios, and Ted Vivero.

WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND

Rollers 1 poses for a team photo after accepting the Rotary caging U16 championship trophy from club president Peter Schilling, back row third left, and Rotarian Kelly Butcher, back second left, Saturday morning at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The team is fronted by Rollers Basketball Club's Joe Diaz.

Rotary Club of Saipan president Peter Schilling and Rotarians Kelly Butcher and Laurie Peterka were on hand to present the team with the championship trophy along with the other various award recipients.

More details about the award winners of both the U16 and U20 divisions are forthcomiong.

The U16 finals match started out with a 10-all deadlock as Rollers 1's Factor and Morales each bagged a couple of baskets in the first quarter, while Eldiberto Javier III paced Proa with 6 markers on the other end.

Rollers' J.P. Iglesias then sank a three-ball and a pair of free throws in the second quarter to help nose his team ahead, 19-16, at the half.

Factor returned after the break and added 4 more points in the second quarter and received a

See ROLLERS 1 on Page 26

Jericho continues to soar for Falcons

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Former CNMI National Team member Jericho Cruz continued his stellar performance with the Adamson Falcons.

The 6'0 shooting guard, who was among Adamson's top scorers in the 2012 season of the prestigious University Athletics Association of the Philippines, is now playing in the 2012 Philippine Collegiate Champions League and helped his Falcons moved one win away from making in to the Final Four of the more than 200-team caging.

Cruz's latest exploit in the nationwide PCCL was a 37-point output against NCAA powerhouse San Sebastian College. According to a Philippine newspaper report, the former CNMI cager drilled four treys, collared seven rebounds, and had four assists to lift his Falcons to an 88-79 upset over the Stags last Sunday at the San Juan Arena.

The victory was Cruz and company's sixth in as many matches in the Metro Manila

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The Adamson Falcons' Jericho Cruz, seen here driving against two Ateneo defenders during a game in the UAAP in September this year, scored 37 points in their 88-79 win over the San Sebastian Stags last Sunday in the 2012 Philippine Collegiate Champions League.

Two Whispering Palms swimmers plunge into the pool during the 200m freestyle race in the 19th SSC All Schools Swimming Championships held at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool on Nov. 10.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Whispering Palms clinches twin titles

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Kan Pacific Swimming Pool proved to be Whispering Palms' turf after the Terns ruled two divisions in the 19th SSC All Schools Swimming Championships held at the Marpi facility early this month.

The Whispering Palms swim team, which is composed of Blake and Logan Mister, Steven and Mylan Goodwin, Cole Chambers, Jon and Gillian Villagomez, Eugene Park, Troy Young, Steven Lee, Colin Ramsey, Amon and Ariya McGuire,

See WHISPERING on Page 26

Sharks come up just short vs Punishers, 13-6

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

CFL Sharks running back Jeff Boyer tries to break a tackle during their game against the Philippine Punishers last Nov. 10 at Manila's Phil-Sports Complex Track & Oval Field. BOB GUERRERO

The Commonwealth Football League Sharks held the Philippine Punishers to 6 points for over three quarters of action before

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